JUDGE DREDD
YEAR ONE

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THE LONG HARD ROAD

JUDGE DREDD CREATED BY
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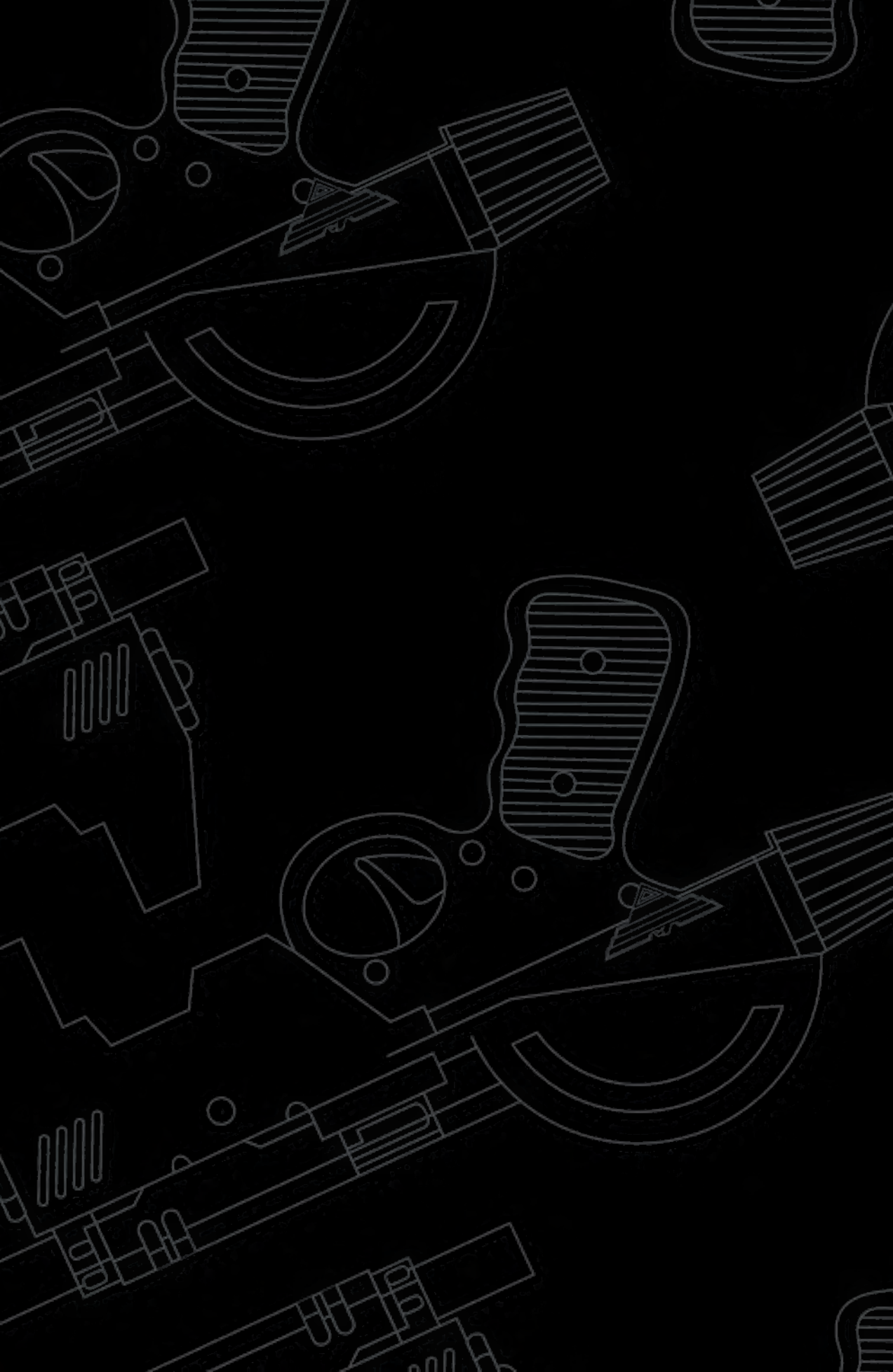
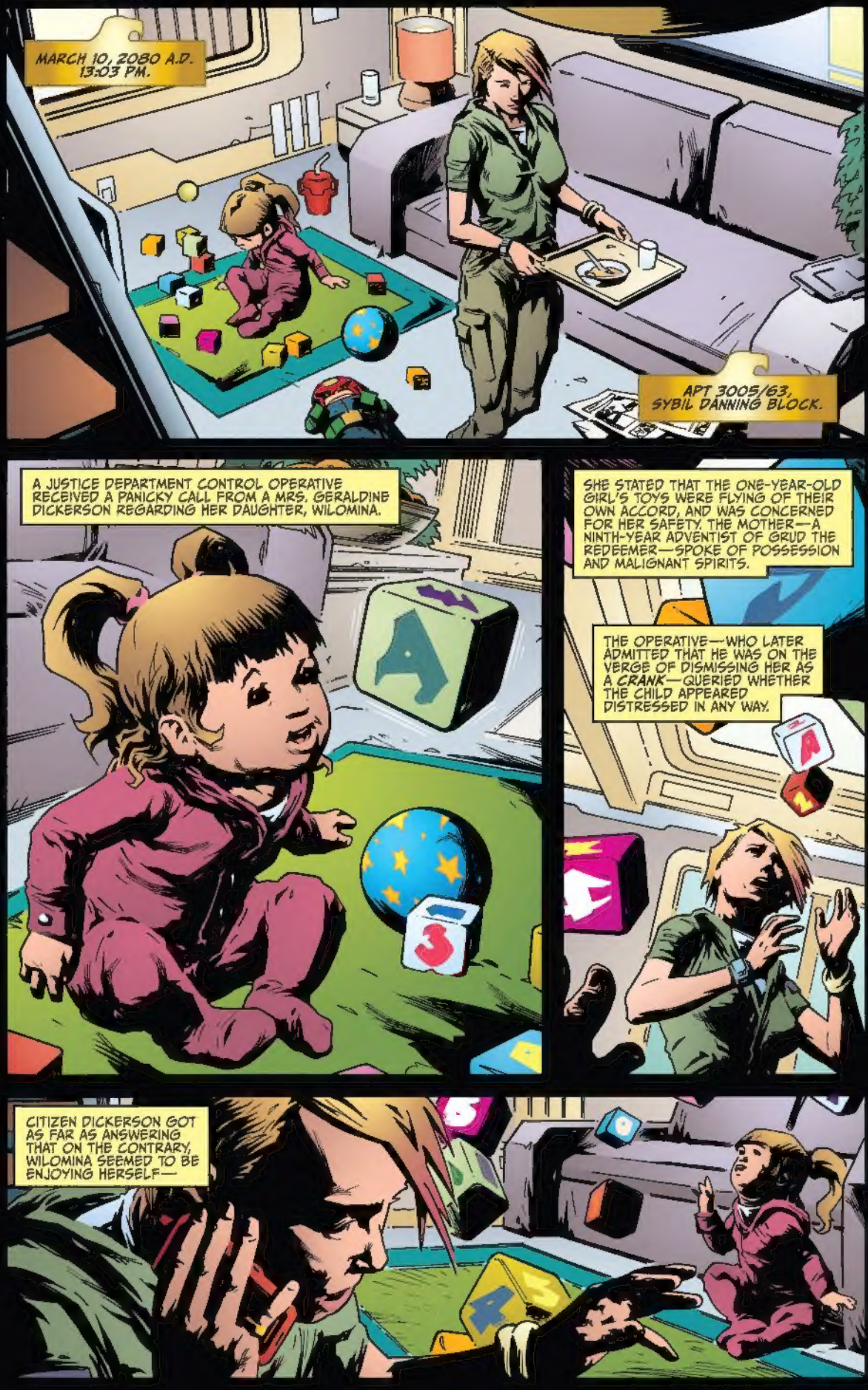


MARCH 10, ZOBO A.D.
12:14 PM.
ERNIE WISE BLOCK JUNIOR HIGH.
CHAPTER 1
THE FIRST RECORDED INCIDENT WAS REPORTED BY THE EDU-BOT ON RECESS DUTY, WHO STATED THAT THE SUBJECT HAD DISPLAYED NO PREVIOUS SYMPTOMS.
IT CAME, IT SAID, OUT OF THE BLUE.
NO WARNING—

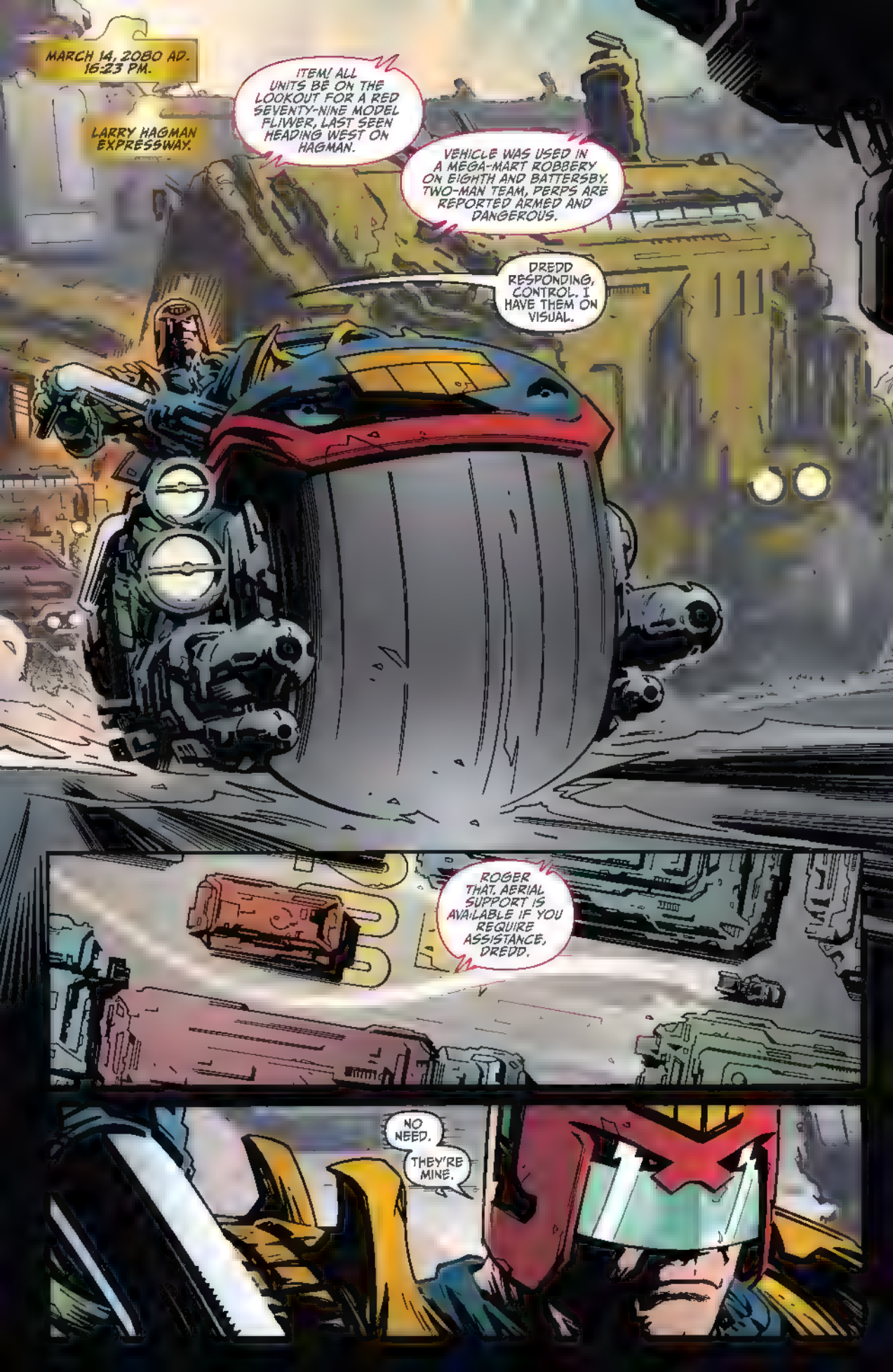
—NO SIGN.
FIFTEEN SECONDS LATER, THE SUBJECT COLLAPSED AND HAD NO MEMORY OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED.

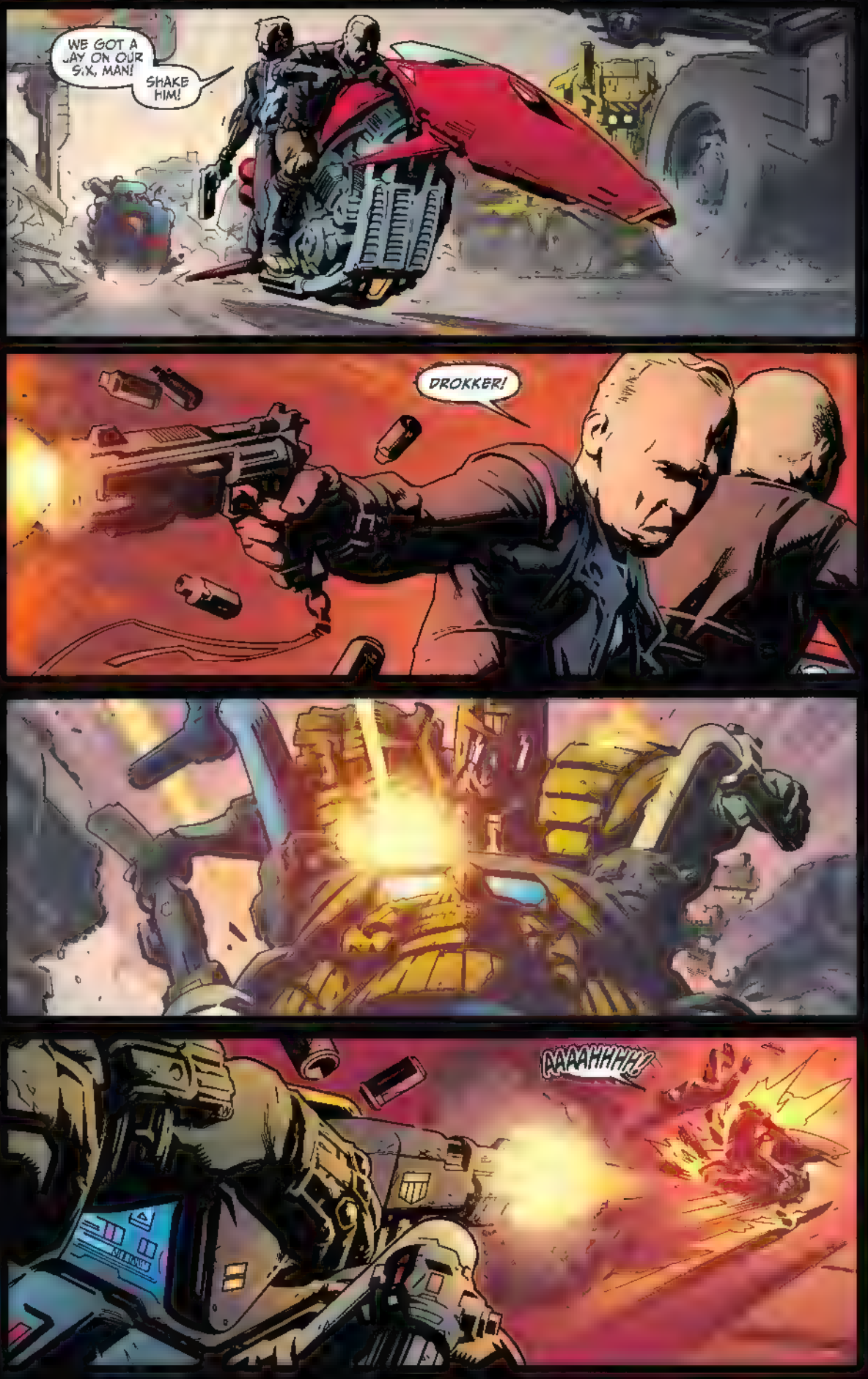

MARCH 10, 2080 A.D.
13:03 PM.
APT 3005/63,
SYBIL DANNING BLOCK.
A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CONTROL OPERATIVE RECEIVED A PANICKY CALL FROM A MRS. GERALDINE DICKERSON REGARDING HER DAUGHTER, WILOMINA.
SHE STATED THAT THE ONE-YEAR-OLD GIRL'S TOYS WERE FLYING OF THEIR OWN ACCORD, AND WAS CONCERNED FOR HER SAFETY. THE MOTHER—A NINTH-YEAR ADVENTIST OF GRUD THE REDEEMER—SPOKE OF POSSESSION AND MALIGNANT SPIRITS.
THE OPERATIVE—WHO LATER ADMITTED THAT HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF DISMISSING HER AS A *CRANK*—QUERIED WHETHER THE CHILD APPEARED DISTRESSED IN ANY WAY.
CITIZEN DICKERSON GOT AS FAR AS ANSWERING THAT ON THE CONTRARY, WILOMINA SEEMED TO BE ENJOYING HERSELF—

—WHEN THE LINE WENT DEAD.
STANDARD PROCEDURE IS TO INVESTIGATE ANY SUSPICIOUS OR INTERRUPTED CALLS, AND SO A UNIT WAS DISPATCHED.
UPON ASSESSING THE SCENE, THE ATTENDING JUDGE RECOMMENDED DETAINING BOTH MOTHER AND DAUGHTER FOR FURTHER EVALUATION.

MARCH 10, 2080 AD.
13:27 PM.
JIMMY STEWART BLOCK CROSSWALK.
THE RODENTS WERE IN THEIR USUAL SPOT, CASTING AN EYE OUT FOR AN EASY MARK. THE CANDYMAN WAS DEMANDING PAYMENT, AND THEY REQUIRED FUNDS.
ZIV SINGLED OUT A LIKELY-LOOKING DINK AND TOLD THE OTHERS TO FOLLOW HIS LEAD.
HE GOT THE VIC TO HAND OVER HIS CREDS EASY ENOUGH—SAP HAD NEARLY FIVE LARGE ON HIM.
THEN—

—THINGS GOT WEIRD.
IT WAS LIKE ZIV HAD PUT A HEX ON HIM, OR SOMETHING. *HYPNOTISED* HIM.
DESPITE REPEATED ENQUIRIES AS TO HOW HE DID IT, ZIV COULD ONLY SHRUG HIS SHOULDERS. HE HAD NO ANSWERS.
BUT, HE TOLD THEM...
...IT SURE OPENED UP A WHOLE WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES.


MARCH 14, 2080 AD.
16:23 PM.
LARRY HAGMAN EXPRESSWAY.
ITEM! ALL UNITS BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A RED SEVENTY-NINE MODEL FLIVVER, LAST SEEN HEADING WEST ON HAGMAN.
VEHICLE WAS USED IN A MEGA-MART ROBBERY ON EIGHTH AND BATTERSBY. TWO-MAN TEAM, PERPS ARE REPORTED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.
DREDD RESPONDING, CONTROL. I HAVE THEM ON VISUAL.
ROGER THAT. AERIAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE IF YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE, DREDD.
NO NEED.
THEY'RE MINE.


WE GOT A JAY ON OUR S.X. MAN!
SHAKE HIM!
DROKKER!
AAAAHHH!!

DURRRROOOKK—!
UGHNN!
HNN...
HNN...
HNN...
FREEZE, CREEP!

AAHH—!
HEY, YOU OKAY, PAL? YOU WANT US TO GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL?
STOMM, HE'S BLEEDING—
NO H-HOSPITALS. JUST GET ME A S-SET OF DROKKIN' WHEELS FAST—
YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE.
HANDS IN THE AIR—NOW.

B-BACK OFF, JUDGE, OR I'LL POP TH.S BOZO!
DAD! NO, DON'T HURT HIM—!
DROP THE GUN, PUNK, BEFORE I DROP YOU.
THAT'S YOUR FINAL WARN.NG.
YOU... YOU STRA GHT OUT OF CADET SCHOOL, K D? I DON'T THINK YOU GOT THE STONES YET TO PULL THAT TR GGER.
WALK AWAY NOW, SON, BEFORE I PA NT YOUR NICE NEW JNIFORM WITH H.S BRA.NS.
NO! LEAVE HIM ALONE!
YOU CAN STAND DOWN TOO, JUVEY. YOU DON'T WANT ME GETTIN' NERVOUS AND PUTTIN' A BULLET IN YOUR OLD MAN—

NO!
WHAT THE F—?
G-GET ME DOWN!
YAAAAAAHHH!
NO—NO—
NOO AAAAHHH!
GUK!

HUH.
MARCH 14, 18:48 PM
PSI-DIVISION.
PSI
YOU BEEN HERE BEFORE, DREDD?

NO, NEVER HAD ANY REASON TO. I KNOW THE HISTORY, OF COURSE—ONE OF SOLOMON'S LAST ACTS BEFORE HE RESIGNED WAS TO AUTHORISE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXPERIMENTAL WING.
IT MUST'VE SEEMED A LITTLE... OUT THERE TWENTY YEARS AGO. STILL DOES, I SUPPOSE.
NOT SO EXPERIMENTAL NOW—WE'RE A FULLY FLEDGED DIVISION. REGULAR ANNUAL INTAKE OF CADETS WITH THE NECESSARY APTITUDE, ESTABLISHED RANKS OF TELEPATHS, PRECOGS, EMPATHS... IT'S SHOWING RESULTS.
CRIMES PREDICTED BEFORE THEY OCCUR, INFORMATION GLEANED FROM THE MINDS OF THE GUILTY, PERPS TRACKED ACROSS THE CITY VIA REMOTE VIEWING—WITH AN *EIGHTY-PER-CENT ARREST RATE*, IT'S PROVED A VALUABLE ADDITION TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ARSENAL.
CAN'T SAY IT'S MY FIELD OF EXPERTISE.
YOU LOBBIED HARD FOR IT, I UNDERSTAND.
THAT'S RIGHT, ME AND A HANDFUL OF OTHERS. BACK IN THE DAY, FUNDING WAS BEING POURED INTO TECH PROJECTS, MOSTLY WEAPONS AND SURVEILLANCE R&D, BUT WE FIGURED THERE WAS SO MUCH *HUMAN POTENTIAL* GOING UNEXPLORED.
TURNS OUT WE WERE RIGHT.
YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, RIORDEN, IF I SEEM SCEPTICAL. SOLOMON OBVIOUSLY SAW POTENTIAL IN PSYCHIC OFFICERS, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE LAW, I DEAL IN ABSOLUTES, WHERE THERE'S LITTLE ROOM FOR ERROR.
BY WHICH YOU MEAN THIS ISN'T AN EXACT SCIENCE. SO WHAT MADE YOU FINALLY COME TO PSI-DIV?
BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DEALING WITH HERE.

WHO IS HE?
HERBY STIMCOCK, EIGHT YEARS OLD, RESIDENT WITH HIS PARENTS AT SAM FULLER, ACROSS SECTOR. NO PRIORS, NO PHYSICAL ABNORMALITIES, CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH, BUT—
—UNEXPLAINED PSYCHIC MANIFESTATION?
RIGHT. HOW'D YOU—
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HIM TO US OTHERWISE. WHAT DID HE DO?
THAT I'M STILL FIGURING OUT. FROM WHAT I SAW, HE TOOK A MAN APART, TORE HIM LIMB FROM LIMB, WITHOUT LAYING A HAND ON HIM. THE VIC WAS THREATENING TO SHOOT HIS FATHER; THE BOY WAS DISTRESSED.
HE LASHED OUT?
I GUESS YOU'D CALL IT THAT. I'VE GOT NO OTHER EXPLANATION FOR WHAT HAPPENED.
INTERROGATED HIM IN A JUVE CUBE FOR CLOSE TO AN HOUR, BUT THE KID KNOWS NOTHING. CAN'T RECALL MUCH, CAN'T ACCOUNT FOR HIS ACTIONS.
HIS PARENTS ARE JUST AS IN THE DARK. ACCORDING TO THEM, HE'S NEVER EXHIBITED ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE, ANY SHOW OF...
...POWER?
HM. TIME I TOOK A LOOK IN HIS HEAD, I THINK.

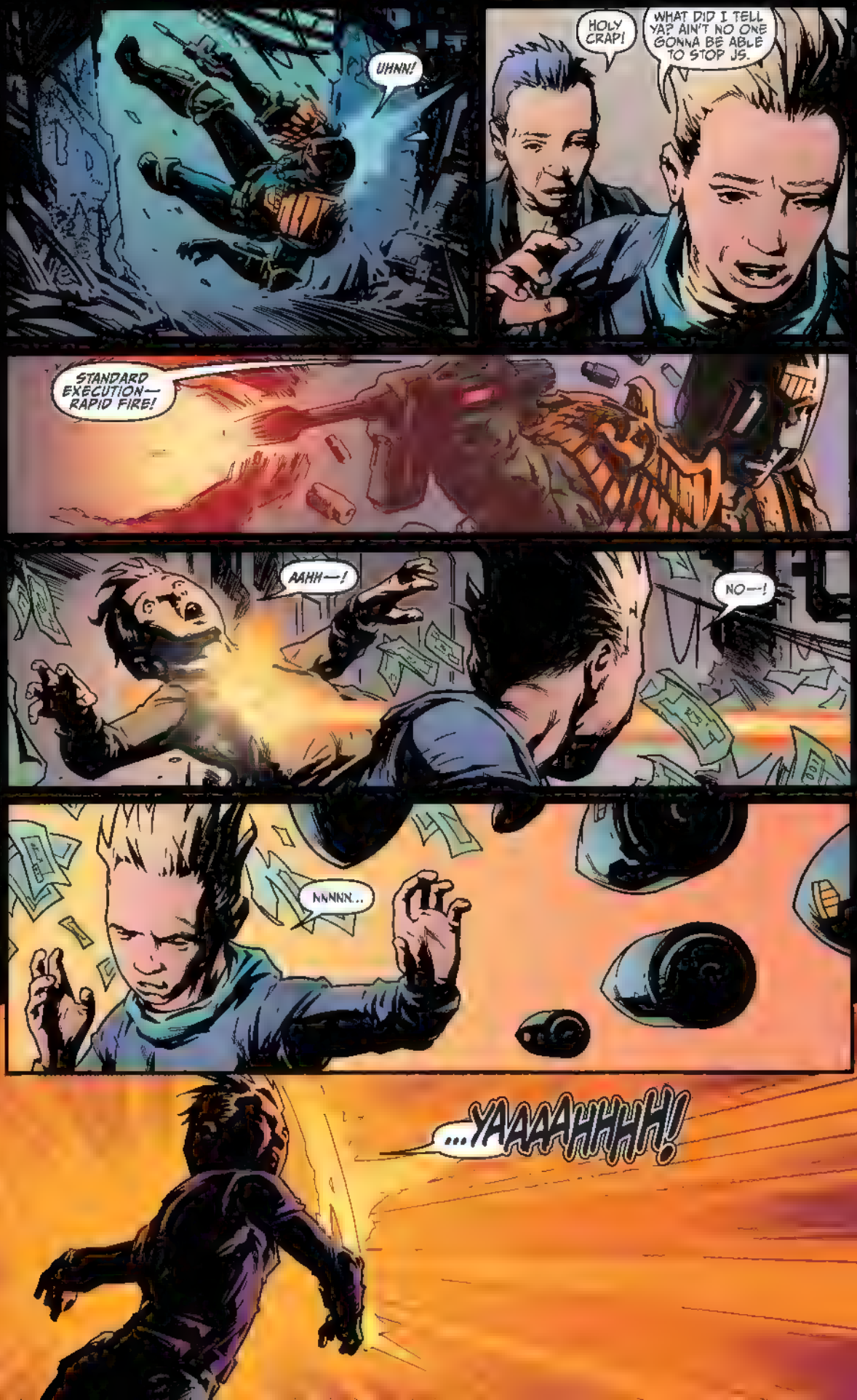
HEY, HERBY DON'T BE AFRAID, SON. I'M RIORDEN. JUDGE DREDD HERE FILLED ME IN ON WHAT HAPPENED.
SO YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THE INCIDENT?
N-NO, NOTHING. I WAS REAL ANGRY, I KNOW THAT MUCH, BUT CAN'T THINK WHY. REST IS LIKE... STATIC.
STATIC, HUH? LIKE WHEN YOU WAKE UP FROM A BAD DREAM AND THE DETAILS ARE ALL FUZZY?
YEAH, ABIT.
OK, RELAX. I'M GOING TO READ YOUR MIND, HERBY, SO JUST KEEP STILL. IT WON'T HURT. I WANT TO SEE IF I CAN GET PAST THAT STATIC.
HE WATCHED WITH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF INTEREST, THE PROCEDURE ALIEN TO HIM. DREDD HAD NEVER BEEN PRESENT AT A SCAN LIKE THIS BEFORE.
THOUGHTS PLUCKED FROM HEADS.. THE CONCEPT WASN'T FAR OFF RUNE-CASTING, HE MUSED, OR DIVINATION.
HE HAD TO ADMIT HE FELT UNCOMFORTABLE TAKING AN INVESTIGATION DOWN THIS ROAD—HE WAS, WITHOUT DOUBT, ABOUT AS PSYCHIC AS ROCKCRETE. IF HE COULDN'T LIVE OR BREATHE IT, THEN IT WOULDN'T ENTER HIS RADAR.
BUT UNUSUAL CASES REQUIRED UNUSUAL METHODS, EVEN HE COULD SEE THAT.
SOMETHING... SOMETHING HERE..

WHAT IS IT?
I CAN SENSE A... PRESENCE, OUTSIDE THE FRINGES OF NORMAL PERCEPTION. STRONG BUT.. SCATTERSHOT. UNFOCUSED.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE A BEACON, OR A RELAY. BUT ONLY PARTS OF IT ARE COMING THROUGH. IT'S TOO UNCLEAR TO DETERMINE THE CONTENTS..
YOU THINK IT'S A MESSAGE?
TOO WEAK, TOO SCRAMBLED TO SAY. THERE'S NO GOVERNING PATTERN TO SUGGEST IT'S A DELIBERATE BROADCAST IT'S... WHITE NOISE.
LIKE THE JUVE SAID: STATIC.
REST EASY, HERBY. WE'RE FINISHED NOW.
SO WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE? A KIND OF.. BACKGROUND RADIATION?
POSSIBLY. I MEAN, THERE'S ALL MANNER OF STUFF WASHING THROUGH THE ETHEREAL PLANES BUT WHAT'S INTERESTING ABOUT THIS IS IT TRIGGERED AN OTHERWISE UNDETECTABLE PSYCHIC ABILITY.
ROOTING THROUGH HIS BRAINWAVES, I COULD SEE NONE OF THE USUAL PSIGNIFIERS. HE'D BE ZERO-RATED, NORMALLY. BUT EXPOSURE TO WHATEVER THIS IS CHANGED THAT AND FOUND AN OUTLET AS EXTREME TELEKINESIS.
BUT MORE IMPORTANT, I CAN CONFIRM THIS ISN'T AN ISOLATED CASE.
THERE HAVE BEEN MORE SHOWING EXACTLY THE SAME SYMPTOMS.

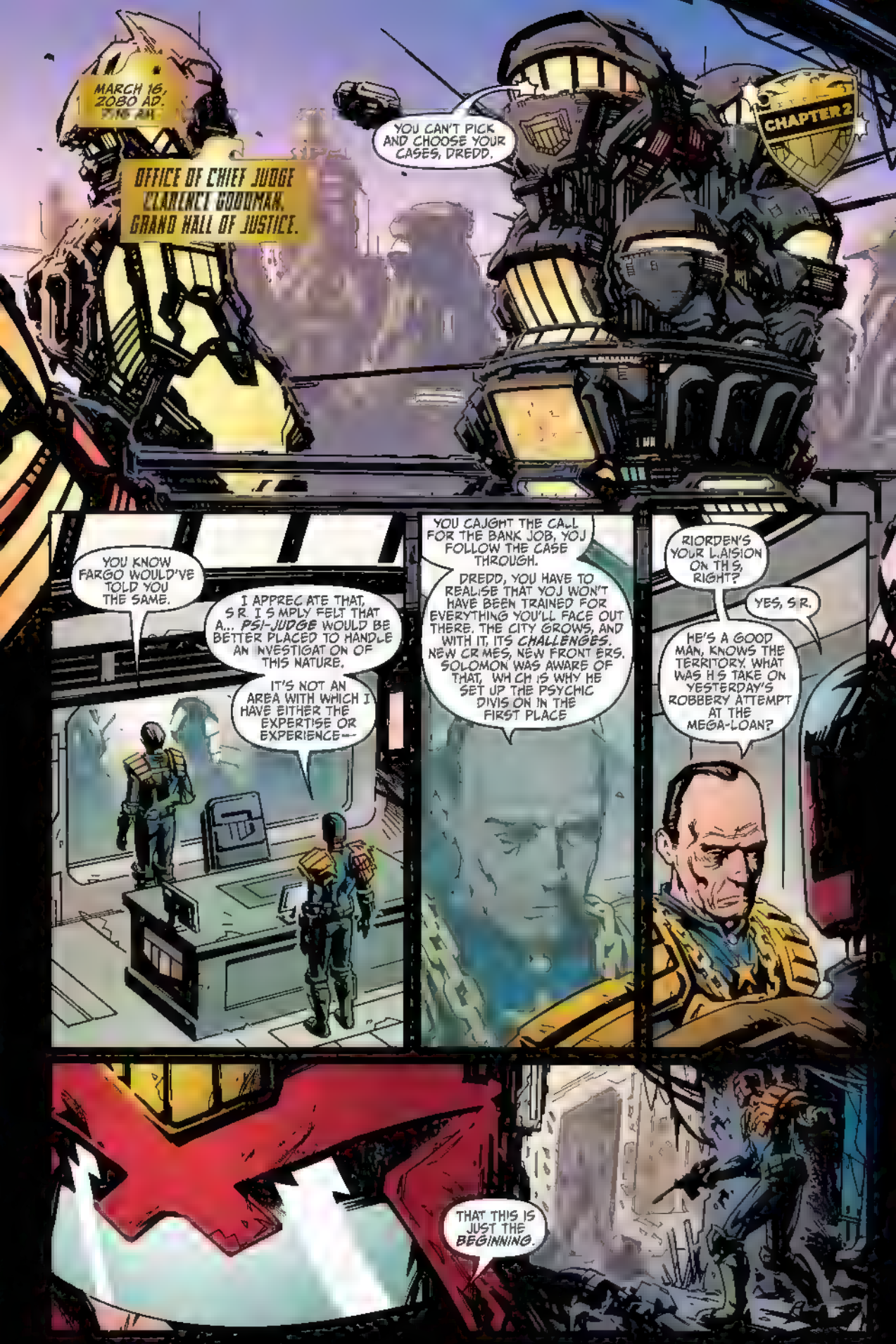
MARCH 15, 8:22 AM.
LANSDALE PARK PEDWAY.
MORE, RIORDEN HAD SAID. MANY MORE. TWENTY-THREE AT THE LAST COUNT, OVER THE LAST FIVE DAYS, AND ALL WITHIN THIS SECTOR.
TWENTY-THREE JUVES, FROM THE AGES OF ONE TO EIGHTEEN, ALL MANIFESTING PSYCHIC POWERS FOR THE BRIEFEST OF PERIODS
SOME WERE SPONTANEOUS OUTBURSTS, LIKE THE GIRL IN CHANNING WHO BEGAN SPEAKING WITH HER DEAD GRANDFATHER'S VOICE; OTHER DISPLAYS, LIKE HERBY'S, APPEARED DIRECTED, TARGETED. HALF A DOZEN WERE DEAD AS A RESULT, THREE IN A PYRO INCIDENT.
FEW HAD ANY RECOLLECTION OF WHAT THEY'D DONE; NONE HAD EVER EXHIBITED ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE.
KEEP IT IN YOUR PANTS, CREEP. MOVE ALONG BEFORE I BOOK YOU ON A LEWD RAP.
FEEEEP!
RIORDEN HAD THEM ALL UNDER OBSERVATION AT PSI-D V, BUT TESTS WERE INCONCLUSIVE, AND THERE WERE NO UNIFYING FACTORS OTHER THAN THE SUBJECTS' YOUTH AND THE PRESENCE OF THAT 'WHITE NOISE,' AS HE'D CALLED IT.
YOU!
DREDD HAD BEEN ON THE STREETS CLOSE TO A YEAR. THE ACADEMY HAD PREPARED HIM AS BEST IT COULD, BUT IT WAS HERE WHERE HE'D LEARN WHAT THE CITY WOULD THROW AT HIM, IN ALL ITS STRANGE VARIETIES.
QUITE A HAUL, AND IT'S NOT EVEN NINE O'CLOCK.
I'M AN EARLY RISER.
CONVENIENT YOU CAN BE IN A CUBE BY MIDDAY.
TWO YEARS
SOME CRIMES NEVER CHANGED; OTHERS, HE GUESSED, HE'D HAVE TO... ADAPT TO.

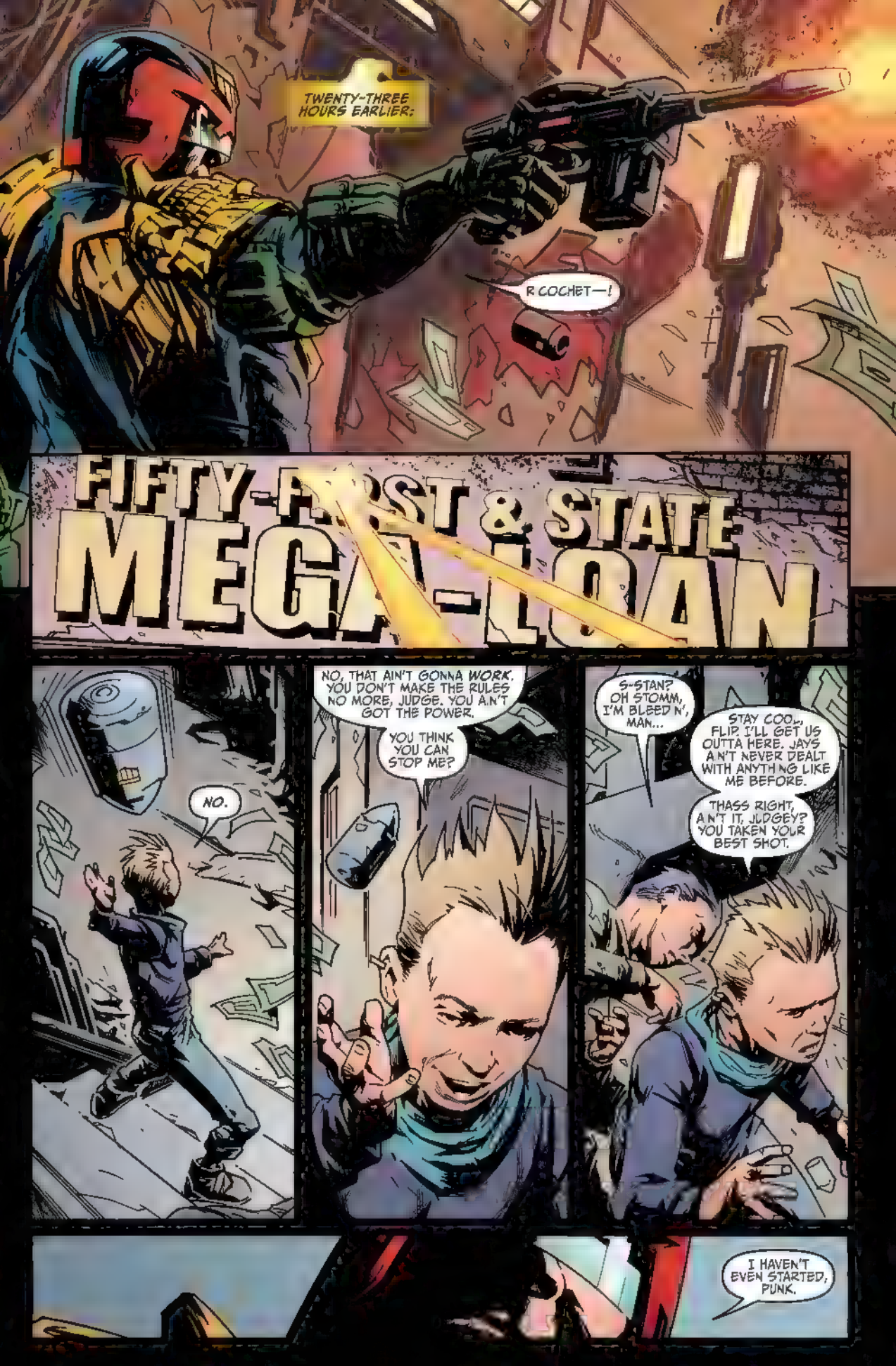
ALL UNITS—ITEM! REPORTS OF DISTURBANCE AT FIFTY-FIRST & STATE MEGA-LOAN ON HESTON, SECTOR 6.
THIS IS DREDD—I'M THREE STREETS AWAY! I'LL TAKE IT!
GOT A DIP REQUIRING PICK-UP, HOLDING POST IN LANSDALE PARK.
WILCO. CATCH WAGON IS ON ITS WAY.
THOOOM
HOO-WEEEE! DID YOU SEE THAT THING BLOW?
HOW THE DROKK ARE YOU DOING IT, MAN?
I JUST CLOSE MY EYES AND—BOOM! S'LIKE ANYTHING I THINK, IT JUST HAPPENS!
WHAT NOW, STAN? HOW TH'HELL WE GONNA CARRY ANY OF THIS? GOTTA BE A COUPLA MILLION CREDS HERE, EASY!
AIN'T NO PROBLEM. LIKE I SAY...
...CLOSE MY EYES...
...AN' WISHES COME TRUE.

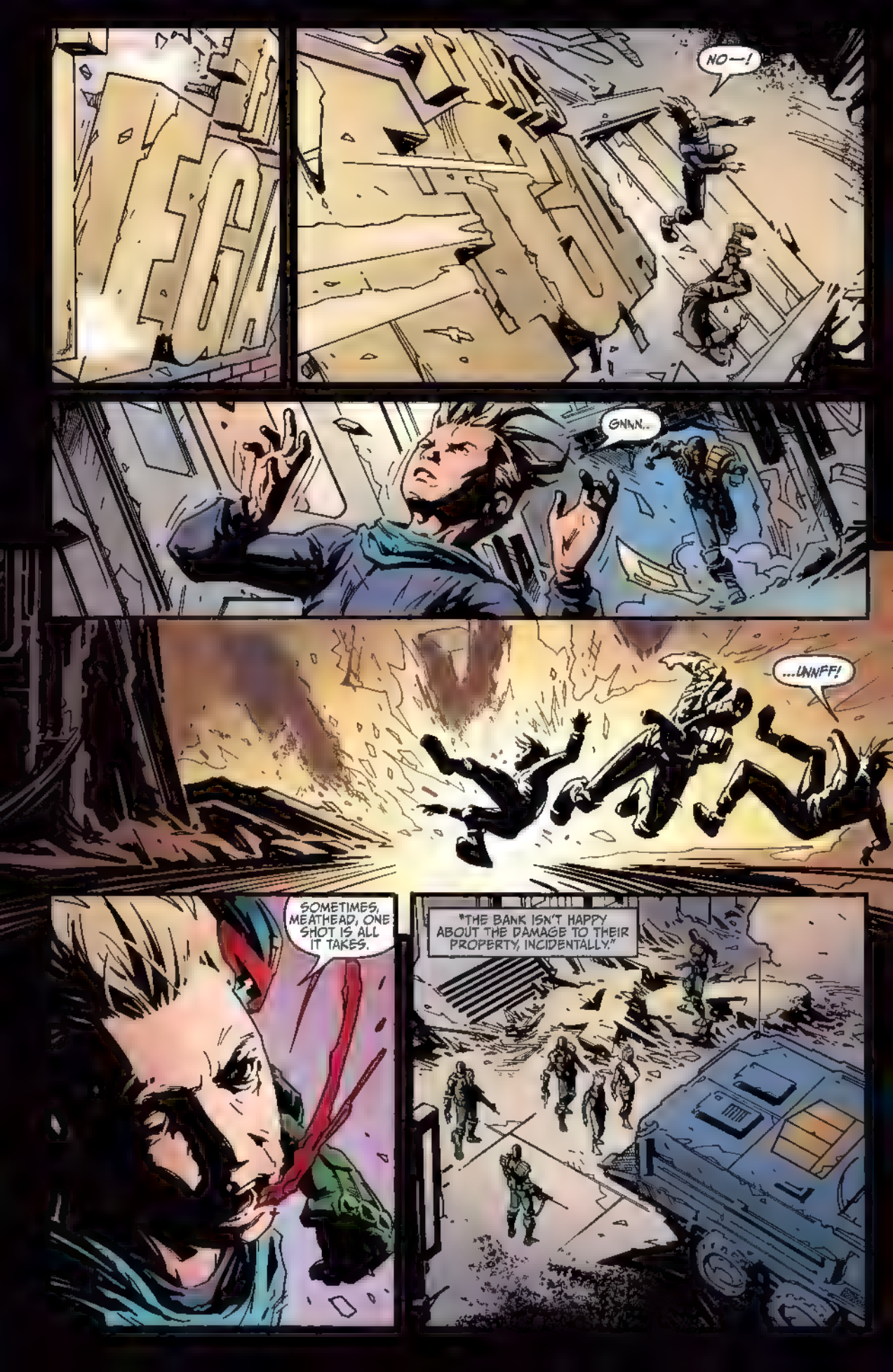
NO ONE MOVES AN' YOU WON'T GET HURT!
C'MON, MAN! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE, PUNKS!
STOMM! JUDGE —
OK, BOYS, THE GAMES END HERE. ON THE FLOOR, BOTH OF YOU.
OH, GRUD—
HE'S ONLY ONE JAY, FLIP. HE AIN'T GONNA BE NO OBSTACLE.
I DUNNO, STAN, THIS DON'T SEEM LIKE A GOOD DEA—
YOU THINK HE'S A MATCH FOR ME? WATCH.
DROKK!


UHNN!
HOLY CRAP!
WHAT DID I TELL YA? AIN'T NO ONE GONNA BE ABLE TO STOP JS.
STANDARD EXECUTION— RAPID FIRE!
AAHH—!
NO—!
NNNNN...
...YAAAAHHHH!

DREDD? IT'S RIORDEN AT PSI-DIV. YOU BUSY?
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
IT'S THE JUVES WE'VE GOT HERE UNDER OBSERVATION. THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER SPIKE IN PSYCHIC ACTIVITY IN THE PAST FEW MINUTES.
NO KIDDING.
THEY ALL STARTED MANIFESTING FOR A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME SO I RAN A FEW DEEP PROBES.
THAT STATIC AGAIN, BUT IT WAS STRONGER, LIKE THE SIGNAL WAS GETTING CLEARER.
AND?
DREDD, I THINK THE JUVES ARE UNCONCIOUSLY TUNING INTO IT, CATCHING THESE BURSTS AS IT HITS THE RIGHT WAVELENGTH. BUT IF IT'S GETTING MORE POWERFUL, AND THEY'RE SHOWING THESE PSYCHIC ABILITIES FOR LONGER AND MORE SUSTAINED PERIODS...
...I BELIEVE SOMETHING MAY BE TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH.


MARCH 16, 2080 AD.
OFFICE OF CHIEF JUDGE CLARENCE GOODMAN. GRAND HALL OF JUSTICE.
YOU CAN'T PICK AND CHOOSE YOUR CASES, DREDD.
CHAPTER 2
YOU KNOW FARGO WOULD'VE TOLD YOU THE SAME.
I APPRECIATE THAT, SIR. I SIMPLY FELT THAT A... PSI-JUDGE WOULD BE BETTER PLACED TO HANDLE AN INVESTIGATION OF THIS NATURE.
IT'S NOT AN AREA WITH WHICH I HAVE EITHER THE EXPERTISE OR EXPERIENCE—
YOU CAUGHT THE CALL FOR THE BANK JOB, YOU FOLLOW THE CASE THROUGH.
DREDD, YOU HAVE TO REALISE THAT YOU WON'T HAVE BEEN TRAINED FOR EVERYTHING YOU'LL FACE OUT THERE. THE CITY GROWS, AND WITH IT, ITS CHALLENGES. NEW CRIMES, NEW FRONTIERS. SOLOMON WAS AWARE OF THAT, WHICH IS WHY HE SET UP THE PSYCHIC DIVISION IN THE FIRST PLACE
RIORDEN'S YOUR LIAISION ON THIS, RIGHT?
YES, SIR.
HE'S A GOOD MAN, KNOWS THE TERRITORY. WHAT WAS HIS TAKE ON YESTERDAY'S ROBBERY ATTEMPT AT THE MEGA-LOAN?
THAT THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.


TWENTY-THREE HOURS EARLIER:
R COCHET—!
MEGA-LOAN
NO.
NO, THAT AIN'T GONNA WORK. YOU DON'T MAKE THE RULES NO MORE, JUDGE. YOU AIN'T GOT THE POWER.
YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME?
S-STAN? OH STOMM, I'M BLEED N', MAN...
STAY COO.., FLIP. I'LL GET US OUTTA HERE. JAYS AIN'T NEVER DEALT WITH ANYTHING LIKE ME BEFORE.
THASS RIGHT, AIN'T IT, JUDGEY? YOU TAKEN YOUR BEST SHOT.
I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED, PUNK.


FIGHT
NO—!
GNNN..
...UNNFF!
SOMETIMES, MEATHEAD, ONE SHOT IS ALL IT TAKES.
"THE BANK ISN'T HAPPY ABOUT THE DAMAGE TO THEIR PROPERTY, INCIDENTALLY."

I NEEDED A DIVERSION. THE JUVE WAS TOO STRONG; I COULDN'T GET PAST HIS DEFENCES. I HAD TO HAVE SOMETHING BREAK HIS CONCENTRATION.
AND HIS JAW AS WELL, I HEAR.
GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THOUGHT IT BEST IF THE PERP WAS INCAPACITATED.
I'M NOT QUERYING YOUR PROCEDURE, DREDD. YOU ACQUITTED YOURSELF WELL IN AN... UNORTHODOX SITUATION. THAT'S WHY I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK WITH RIORDEN ON THIS.
HOW MANY PSI-ACTIVE JUVENILES ARE THERE IN TOTAL NOW?
THIRTY-ONE CONFIRMED REPORTS, AS OF THIS AM, AND ALL IN THIS SECTOR. IT APPEARS TO BE A LOCALISED PHENOMENON--NOTHING SIMILAR IS MANIFESTING ITSELF OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE AREA.
RIORDEN'S CONVINCED THAT THE SOURCES ARE THESE BURSTS OF PSYCHIC ENERGY THAT THE JUVES ARE TUNING INTO AND WHICH IS AMPLIFYING THEIR ABILITIES. HE THINKS THAT THE SPIKES ARE GETTING STRONGER, AND THAT THIS SUGGESTS SOMETHING IS ON ITS WAY.
"SOMETHING?"
IN HIS WORDS: AN ENTITY, CROSSING THE DIMENSIONAL DIVIDE.
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE NOT SOLD ON THE THEORY?

...
RIORDEN'S THE EXPERT, I DON'T DENY THAT. BUT I STRUGGLE TO PUT MY FAITH IN A FIELD UPON WHICH SO MUCH IS BASED ON CONJECTURE, ON AN EMOTIONAL READING.
IT IS NOT WHAT BEING A JUDGE MEANS TO ME, WHAT THE ACADEMY INSTILLS IN US. I WAS TAUGHT THERE WAS ONLY THE WORLD THAT WE HAVE MADE AND THE WORD OF LAW.
"A LAW TO BRING A WORLD BLACKENED BY NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST BACK FROM THE BRINK.
"TO ENFORCE ORDER AND CONTROL IN THE AFTERMATH.
"TO DELIVER JUSTICE."
YOUR POINT BEING?
WALK WITH ME, DREDD I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
MY POINT, S.R, IS THAT THE LAW SHOULD REMAIN OBJECTIVE AND RESOLUTE, UNCLOUDED BY DOUBT OR EMOTION—AND A JUDGE IS A PURE INSTRUMENT OF THAT, AN EXTENSION OF THE TEMPLATE LAID DOWN BY FARGO HIMSELF.
FINE WORDS. TEXTBOOK, EVEN.
SO YOU'RE A SCEPTIC. YOU BELIEVE ONLY IN THE BADGE AND THE GUN, THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE. YOU HAVE ANOTHER EXPLANATION FOR THE INCIDENTS?

NOT AN EXPLANATION AS SUCH, NO. BUT THE ATOMIC WAR WAS ONLY TEN YEARS AGO. WE CONTINUE TO LIVE IN AN ENVIRONMENT SCARRED BY ITS FALLOUT. HALF THE PLANET IS DECAYED, MUTANTS EXIST BEYOND THE CITY WALLS.
WHO'S TO SAY THERE ISN'T A RADIOACTIVE ROOT CAUSE TO THE JUVES' SYMPTOMS? A CHEMICAL IMBALANCE IN THE BRAIN FUNCTIONS? MAYBE EVEN A VIRAL INFECTION, PASSED FROM SUBJECT TO SUBJECT?
HAVE THE MEDS FOUND ANY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT?
NO.
DREDD, YOU'RE A YOUNG MAN OF EXCEPTIONAL GENESTOCK—THE LITERAL EMBODIMENT OF OUR FOUNDER. YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO RANK AMONGST OUR GREATEST. BUT YOU LACK EXPERIENCE.
YOU ATTAINED YOUR FULL EAGLE ONLY LAST YEAR. I FEEL PERHAPS YOU WEAR THE UNIFORM BUT ARE STILL BLINKERED BY YOUR TUTORS.
SIR?
YOU'VE SPENT FIFTEEN YEARS IN THE TOUGHEST SCHOOL ON EARTH, MOULDED INTO BECOMING A JUDGE. ONLY THOSE WITH THE NECESSARY SKILL AND STAMINA SURVIVE IT.
ITS RIGOROUSNESS IS THERE TO PROTECT YOU, TO HONE YOU INTO THE UPHOLDER OF THE LAW YOU NEED TO BE IF YOU'RE TO SERVE THE CITIZENS.
BUT IT'S ONLY ONCE YOU STEP ONTO THE SLAB THAT IT'S PUT INTO PRACTICE
AND THERE'S A WORLD OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY WALLS FAR LARGER THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY ANTICIPATE.

WITH RESPECT, SIR, I'VE DONE MY STREET TIME.
I'M NO ROOK E.
I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT THE CITY, THOUGH THAT'LL CONTINUE TO THROW UP ITS FAIR SHARE OF SURPR SES. I MEAN THERE ARE SPHERES BEYOND IT, OF WHICH WE HAVE LIMITED KNOWLEDGE...
...BUT BELIEVE ME, AT SOME POINT, THEY WILL CAUSE US TROUBLE.
WHAT'S TH S?
TEK 15. A MONITORING STATION. ITS EXISTENCE, NEEDLESS TO SAY, IS STR CTLY CLASSIF ED.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN OPERAT NG?
SINCE BOOTH WAS DEPOSED IT GREW OUT OF RADAR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED DJRING THE WAR- FROM WATCHING THE SKIES TO SCANN NG THE A RWAVES.
WHAT ARE THEY MONITOR NG?
THOSE SPHERES I MENT ONED.
THE WORLDS OUTS DE OUR OWN.

"TEK-DIV HAS BEEN AWARE OF PARALLEL REALITIES FOR DECADES, OF COURSE. IT'S ONLY NOW THAT WE HAVE THE MEANS TO INVESTIGATE THEM FURTHER.
"ADMITTEDLY, IT'S A CRAP SHOOT. THERE ARE SO MANY, OPERATING AT DIFFERENT FREQUENCIES, IF YOU WILL, THAT THE LAB BOYS TELL ME IT'S LIKE TRYING TO ZERO IN ON A SINGLE TRI-D CHANNEL AMONGST MILLIONS
"BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE THEM. BEST WE HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT'S OUT THERE BEFORE IT COMES LOOKING FOR US."
IS THAT LIKELY?
IT'S A POSSIBILITY. THE PROBLEM WITH RUNNING SWEEPS LIKE THIS—EITHER ACROSS THE RADIOWAVES OR TELEPATHICALLY—IS THAT IT INCREASES THE LIKLIHOOD OF ATTRACTING ATTENTION.
IT ALL STEMS FROM THE WAR. THE MEGATONNES OF ENERGY RELEASED... IT'S LIKE A BEACON FOR CERTAIN ELEMENTS, SHINES A SPOTLIGHT ON US WHEN WE WOULD'VE GONE OTHERWISE UNNOTICED.
GRUD. AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH.
THIS IS MERELY PRE-EMPTIVE, DREDD. WE HAVE TO CATER FOR EVERY EVENTUALITY, BE PREPARED ON ALL FRONTS.
"IT'D BE A DERELICTION OF DUTY IF WE LET SOMETHING SLIP PAST US."

WHAT THIS BOILS DOWN TO IS: KEEP AN OPEN MIND
IN A NUTSHELL, YES. TRUST RORDEN'S WORD. WHAT'S HIS PLAN OF ACTION?
UNLESS HE CAN GET A CLEARER SENSE OF WHAT THE ENTITY CAUSING THE DISTURBANCE IS, IT COULD BE A CASE OF WAITING UNTIL IT SHOWS ITS FACE.
IF THAT'S SO, IT PUTS US ON THE DEFENSIVE. WE SHOULD BE TAKING THE FIGHT TO IT
YOU'LL FIND THREATS CAN SOMETIMES BE INCONVENIENT LIKE THAT.
BE PREPARED, DREDD. THAT'S MY ADVICE. BE PREPARED.
"A GOOD JUDGE ALWAYS HAS AN EYE ON WHERE THE NEXT ATTACK IS COMING FROM." HE REMEMBERED SOLOMON'S TEXT FROM HIS CADET DAYS.
CLEARLY, THE FORMER CHIEF JUDGE HAD HIS OWN TEACHINGS AT THE FOREFRONT OF HIS MIND WHEN HE ORDERED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PS-DIV. THE PROTECTION OF THE CITY WAS PARAMOUNT, AND DISASTER COULD COME FROM ANY DIRECTION.
GOODMAN HAD BEEN RIGHT. THERE WAS MORE TO BEING A JUDGE THAN WHAT THEY REPRESENTED ON THE STREET. SWIFT, MERCILESS JUSTICE... IT WAS WIDER THAN THAT.
GUARDIANS. RISK ASSESSORS. STRATEGISTS. THE MEG HAD TO PREVAIL, BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY— IT WAS DOWN TO THEM TO MAKE THE JUDGEMENT CALLS THAT ENSURED ORDER WAS MAINTAINED.
IT WAS FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE.

THE CITIZENS DIDN'T SEE IT LIKE THAT, OF COURSE. THEY WERE ONLY AWARE OF CURTAILED LIBERTIES, SLASHED RIGHTS. YOU WERE NEVER SHORT OF YOUR WHINERS AND MILITANTS.
THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO REALISE THAT STABILITY CAME AT A PRICE.
FREEDOM DIDN'T APPLY ANYMORE. THAT NOTION BELONGED TO A WORLD PRE-BOOTH, PRE-NUCLEAR DEVASTATION, WHEN THEY WEREN'T LIVING IN THE ASHES OF MANKIND'S FOLLY.
IT HAD BEEN A LONG HARD ROAD, THIS PAST DECADE, AND THEY HADN'T TRAVELLED IT LIGHTLY.
STILL, BETTER THE CITS WERE KEPT IN IGNORANCE. EASIER TO POLICE THAT WAY, EASIER TO CONTAIN.
ON YOUR FEET, CREEP.
D-DROKK YOU, PIG! DROKKIN' FASCIST—
KEEP TALKING, MEATHEAD, AND EACH WORD WILL EARN YOU AN EXTRA YEAR.
I'M NOT HEARING ANYTHING NEW, BELIEVE ME I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU PUNKS ALWAYS THINK YOU'RE SOMETHING—
—SPECIAL?

DROKK!
AW, MAN! THIS IS INTENSE—!
—LOOK AT ME!
LOOK AT ME!
BDAM!
SECURE THE OTHERS BEFORE THE REST OF THEM START MANIFESTING!
WE'VE GOT ANOTHER PSI-SPIKE!

STOMM, MAN—!
THIS IS DROKK N' AWESOME!
HA HA HA! FRYING TONIGHT, JAY-BOY!
YYIIAAAHHH!
GOTTA ROLL—
—STANDARD EXECUTION— RAPID FIRE!

CONTROL, WE NEED RIOT FOAM STAT, CAROL CLEVELAND PLAZA!
MASS GANG CONFRONTAT ON NVOLV NG MU..TIPLE PYRO INCIDENTS—WE HAVE CASUALT ES, TWO HELMETS DOWN!
WILCO. NEAREST H-WAGON IS ONE SECTOR AWAY. WITH YOU IN TWO.
CALLED IN SJPPORT BUT WE NEED TO STAMP DOWN ON TH S BEFORE IT SPREADS.
WHAT THE DROKK S GO.NG ON?
CREEPS ARE PICK NG UP PSI-ACTIVITY FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE, IMPOSS.BLE TO SAY WHAT THEY'LL BE CAPABLE OF.
THEY GET ONE WARNING— ANY THAT DON'T COMPLY, PUT DOWN PERMANENTLY.
LITTLE YOUNG TO BE MAK NG THAT KIND OF DEC SION, AREN'T YOU?
YOU HAVE A BETTER SOLUT ON, LET'S HEAR IT I'M TRYING TO SAVE L VES HERE.
BJT THEY'RE JJVES—
THEY'RE JUDGE KILLERS
YOU MEATHEADS ARE UNDER ARREST! SJBMIT QU ETLY OR WE WILL BE FORCED TO SHOOT!
HERE WE ARE, P G. COME AND GET US.
W-WAIT, MUNK, THEY'RE SERIOUS—
SO AM I.

MOVE!
AAAAAAHHHH!
TAKE THEM DOWN! NOW!
DAMN—
DROKKIN' DIE—!
NOT.. TODAY... PUNK...!
UGGKK!

DREDD!
I'M OK. UNIFORM TOOK THE BRUNT OF IT.
DUCK AND COVER, GROUND UNITS—RIOT FOAM BEING DEPLOYED!
FINALLY.
A USEFUL TOOL IN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S CROWD-CONTROL ARSENAL, THE FOAM HARDENS WITHIN SECONDS, TRAPPING THOSE WITHIN AND RENDERING THEM IMMOBILE—
—FOR BACK-UP OFFICERS TO REMOVE AND PROCESS.
ALWAYS IN THE THICK OF IT, EH, DREDD?
STOW THE WISECRACKS AND GET ME OUT OF HERE.

RIORDEN—DREDD. JUST HAD ANOTHER PSI-OUTBREAK. YOU CATCH IT?
BIGGEST MEASUREMENT YET. IN FACT, IT SUSTAINED ITSELF LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DISCERN AN EPICENTRE, THE PROBABLE BRIDGEPOINT WHERE THE SOURCE IS BREAKING THROUGH.
IT WAS A STROKE OF GOOD FORTUNE THAT THE SPIKE WAS POWERFUL ENOUGH FOR ME TO TRACE ITS ORIGIN.
YEAH, WE'RE ALL FEELING REAL FORTUNATE AT THIS END, TOO.
SO WHERE'S THIS EPICENTRE? I'LL MEET YOU THERE.
NOT UNSURPRISINGLY, A FACILITY WITH THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF JUVES IN THE SECTOR...
"...SAINT BARTON'S HOME FOR WAYWARD SPUGS."
ST BARTON'S
YOU FEEL THAT, DREDD?
I CAN SENSE A PRESENCE HERE...
I'M GETTING VIBES OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER, SURE.

NONE OF THEM WELCOMING.
DROKK'N' SCUM.
DREDD—NO. WE HAVE TO APPROACH THIS SENSITIVELY. THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE, TOO MUCH POWER AT PLAY HERE.
SENSITIVE, HUH?
YOU ARE?
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. WE'RE HERE PRIMARILY ON AN INVESTIGATIVE MATTER. THIS PLACE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING OF A TROUBLE MAGNET.
EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT OF YOUR SPUGS BECOME CUBE FODDER BY THE TIME THEY'RE TWENTY SEVEN. REPORTED MURDERS IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, I'D SAY THAT'S THE LEAST THEY NEED.

DREDD—
—I'M SENSING A BUILD-UP OF PSYCHIC ACTIVITY. WE NEED TO FIND THE HEART OF IT, QUICKLY.
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS.
WE'D COVER MORE GROUND IF WE SPLIT UP. STAY IN RADIO CONTACT.
YOU'LL KNOW IT IF YOU SEE IT.
WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?
HIS LACK OF PSYCHIC ABILITY DIDN'T STOP HIM FEELING THE DESPAIR IN THE PLACE, THE SOUR STENCH OF BLUNTED YOUTH.
LIVES BRODED, FUTURES VANISHING BEFORE THEIR EYES.

POW.
SAME AGE, SIMILAR BUILD... YET HE AND THE JUVE COULDN'T BE MORE DIFFERENT, INHABITING SEPARATE WORLDS. HIS JUDGE TRAINING HAD TAKEN HIM DOWN ANOTHER ROAD, LEAVING FAR BEHIND SUCH PEER RECOGNITION.
IT REMINDED HIM OF HIS FRACTIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH RICO—IDENTICAL DNA, BROTHERS BONDED THROUGH THEIR PRECIOUS BLOODLINE, BUT THEY WERE SET ON INCREASINGLY DIVERGENT PATHS...
DREDD? I'VE GOT SOMETHING.
FIRST FLOOR—NOW!

RIORDEN?
ROOM AT THE FAR END YOU'LL SEE THE LIGHT.
THERE'S OUR CULPRIT.
A DIMENSIONAL TEAR—ENERGY BEING FORCED THROUGH THE WALL OF OUR REALITY.
HOW HAS NO ONE HERE BEEN AWARE OF IT?
IT WAS PROBABLY ONLY A PINPRICK UNTIL A FEW MINUTES AGO. THAT LAST SPIKE MUST'VE STRETCHED IT CONSIDERABLY. PLUS IT MAY BE REACTING TO MY PROXIMITY.
YOU?
IT'S FEEDING OFF THE PSYCHIC ENERGY OF THE JUVES THAT ARE PICKING UP ITS BROADCAST, ENABLING IT TO GROW. IT'S A TWO-WAY PROCESS, GIVING AND TAKING.
I CAN FEEL IT PLUCKING AT MY MIND, CONSCIOUS OF MY POWER. IS IT NOT TRYING TO GET INTO YOUR HEAD?
I GOT NOTHING, 'CEPT AN AGGRAVATING SENSE OF REDUNDANCY. WHAT DO WE DO? HOW DO WE CLOSE IT?

THAT'S THE PROBLEM. SOMETHING'S PUSHING THROUGH, DRAWING ENERGY TO CROSS OVER. WE NEED TO DISABLE THAT BEFORE WE CAN SEAL—
DROKK—!
WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?
MASSIVE ENERGY RELEASE! THE TEAR JUST RIPPED EVEN WIDER!

SOMETHING WANTS IN, RIGHT?
RIGHT. BUT THE POWER... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING OF THIS MAGNITUDE. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH...

THE CITY HAD TO BE PROTECTED AT ALL COSTS...

LET'S FIND OUT.
RIORDEN, STAY HERE. WORK ON CLOSING THE FISSURE.
DREDD, WAIT—

...FOR THREATS COULD COME FROM ANY DIRECTION

GRUD...

DREDD?
ARE YOU THERE?
CHAPTER 3
DREDD, ANSWER ME—
I'M HERE.
WHERE ARE YOU COMING TO ME FROM, RIORDEN?
I'M STILL AT SAINT BARTON'S. I SUPPOSE I THREW A... I SUPPOSE YOU'D CALL IT A PSYCHIC LIFELINE AFTER YOU WENT THROUGH, MADE SURE WE STAYED IN CONTACT.
AS LONG AS I CAN TRACE YOUR PSIGNATURE, WE CAN COMMUNICATE
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU SEEING, DREDD?
WHAT AM I SEEING?
IT'S HOME.
IT'S OUR CITY.

BJT IT'S HAD BETTER DAYS.

WHAT HAVE I WALKED INTO HERE, R ORDEN? AND WHERE'S MY WAY BACK?
THE FRACTURE'S NO LONGER THERE? NO LONGER MJST BE THE ENERGY SPASM,NG FLUCTUATING, IRREGULARLY. IF I WERE TO WALK THROUGH NOW, I'D PROBABLY EMERGE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CITY.
GREAT.
OK, ONE PROBLEM AT A TIME.
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO AT TH S END, GET SOME PSI-D.V OPERAT VES TO HELP SYNCH WITH THE INVAD NG REALITY, MAYBE PINPOINT POTENT AL BRIDGEHEADS.
IF TH S S AN NVADING FORCE, THERE'S NOT MUCH TO SHOW FOR .T. THE PLACE LOOKS DEAD TO ME A GHOST TOWN.
CAN YOU GET A SENSE OF ANY OF THIS?
I'M PICK NG UP IMPRESS ONS, GLIMPSES, THROUGH YOUR OWN PERCEPT.ONS.
GHOST TOWN COULD BE R GHT. A GHOST OF AN ALTERNATE PAST, HAJNT NG OUR PRESENT.
A MEG THAT D D'N'T SURV VE THE N.KES? IN THAT CASE, WHERE ARE THE BODIES? WHY'S SO MUCH STILL STAND NG?
THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE RUIN OF A BOMBED CITY TO ME.
THEY D D TH S TO THEMSELVES.

THEY HAD ALL FELT THE SURGE, THAT TINGLING IN THEIR HEADS THAT BECAME A FULL-BLOWN ITCH.
IT WHISPERED TO THEM SUGGESTIVELY, CONJURED TEMPTING, IRRESISTABLE IMAGES IN THEIR MINDS.
DREAMS OF DESTRUCTION.
OF ANARCHY.
OF TAKING BACK THAT WHICH THEY'D BEEN DENIED.
CRASH
...AND SMASHING THE SYSTEM IN THE PROCESS.

DREDD, SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BREAK CONTACT AND CALL IN BACK-UP.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH AGAIN AS SOON AS I CAN.
CONTROL, IT'S RIORDEN AT SAINT BARTON'S IN SECTOR 6. WE'VE GOT WIDESPREAD UNREST AMONGST THE JUVES. NEED SEVERAL UNITS AND CATCH-WAGONS HERE RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S A ROJ. ASSISTANCE IS ON ITS WAY.
CALL IN PSI-D V TOO— AS MANY AS CAN BE SPARED.
YOU SPUGS STEP AWAY FROM THE FIRE! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
TAKE A HIKE, DROKKWAD.
UHNN!

YOU CREEPS HAVE MADE A B G M.STAKE—
YOU'RE SOUNDING TIRED, OLD MAN.
AND OBSOLETE.
T ME TO MOVE AS.DE, DON'T YOU TH NK?
UNF!
GRUD C-CAN'T GET FREE..
NIORDEN
I CAN SEE INS.DE YOJR MIND, D.D YOU KNOW THAT, JJDGE? I CAN SEE YOUR PSI-ENERGY STRA.NING, WEAKEN NG.
DWARFED BY WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO JNLEASH.
IT'S NO CONTEST, REALLY. YOU'VE BEEN SUPERCEDED.
AN OUTMODED GENERATION, READY TO BE REPLACED.
RET REMENT BECKONS.

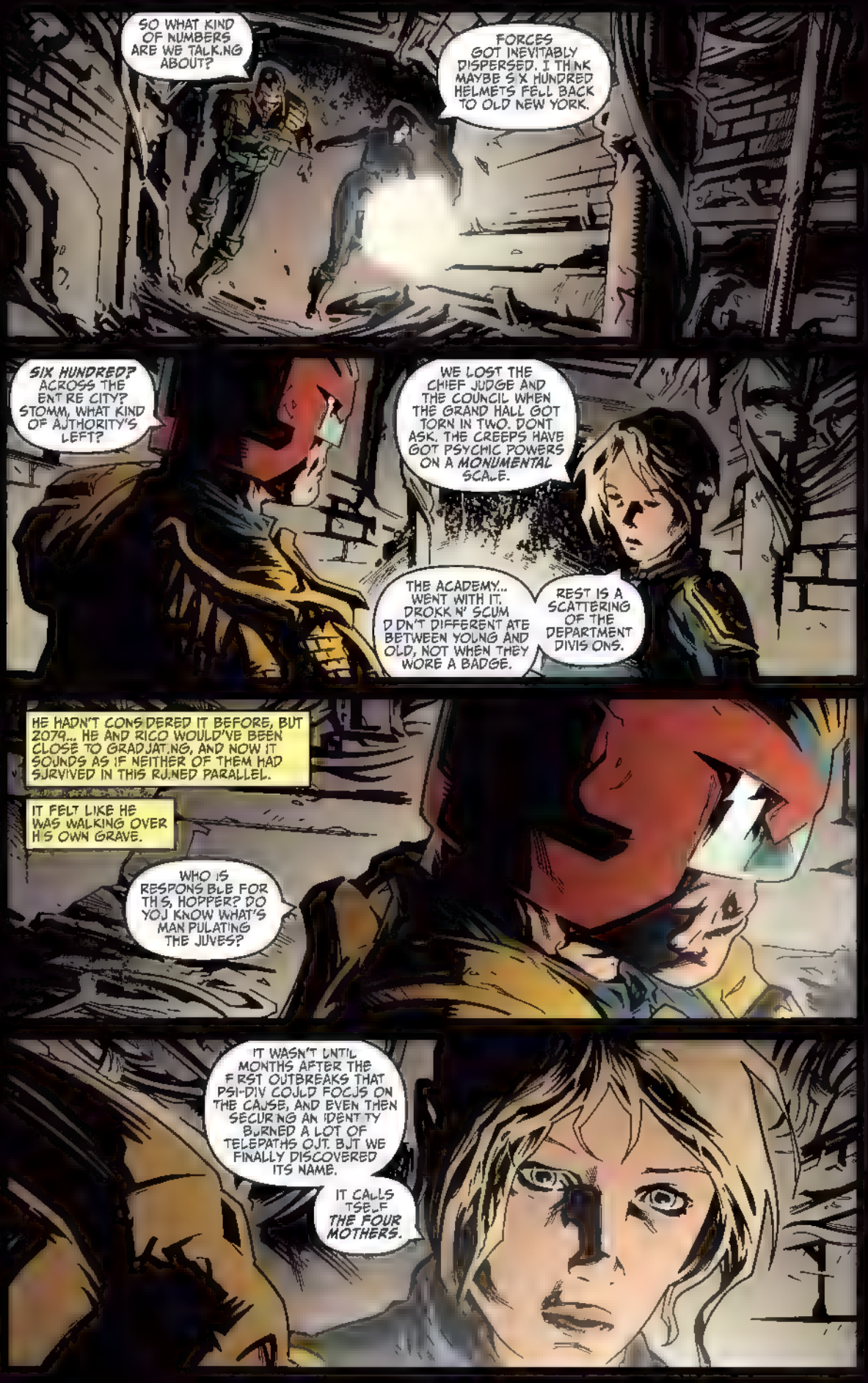
IT SPREADS.
THE ANGER AND DISAFFECTION UNTAPPED, RESENTMENT SEETHING BELOW THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GRAB WHAT THEY CAN, TO MAKE USE OF THIS CHANCE NOW THAT THEY'VE BEEN OFFERED IT.
MANY ARE ORPHANS, OR HOMELESS, OR WARDS OF THE CITY—FAMILIES DEAD, OR ABANDONED BY THEIR PARENTS.
THEY'VE BECOME REFUSE TO BE SWEPT UP AND PROCESSED, THROWN AWAY, FORGOTTEN.
WELL, THEY WOULD STAMP THEIR MARK NOW, RISE UP AND BE NOTICED.
THE SIREN-SONG IN THEIR HEADS HAD SHOWN THEM WHAT COULD BE ACHIEVED, THE POTENTIAL AT THEIR FINGERTIPS.
.. AND NOTHING WOULD STOP THEM.

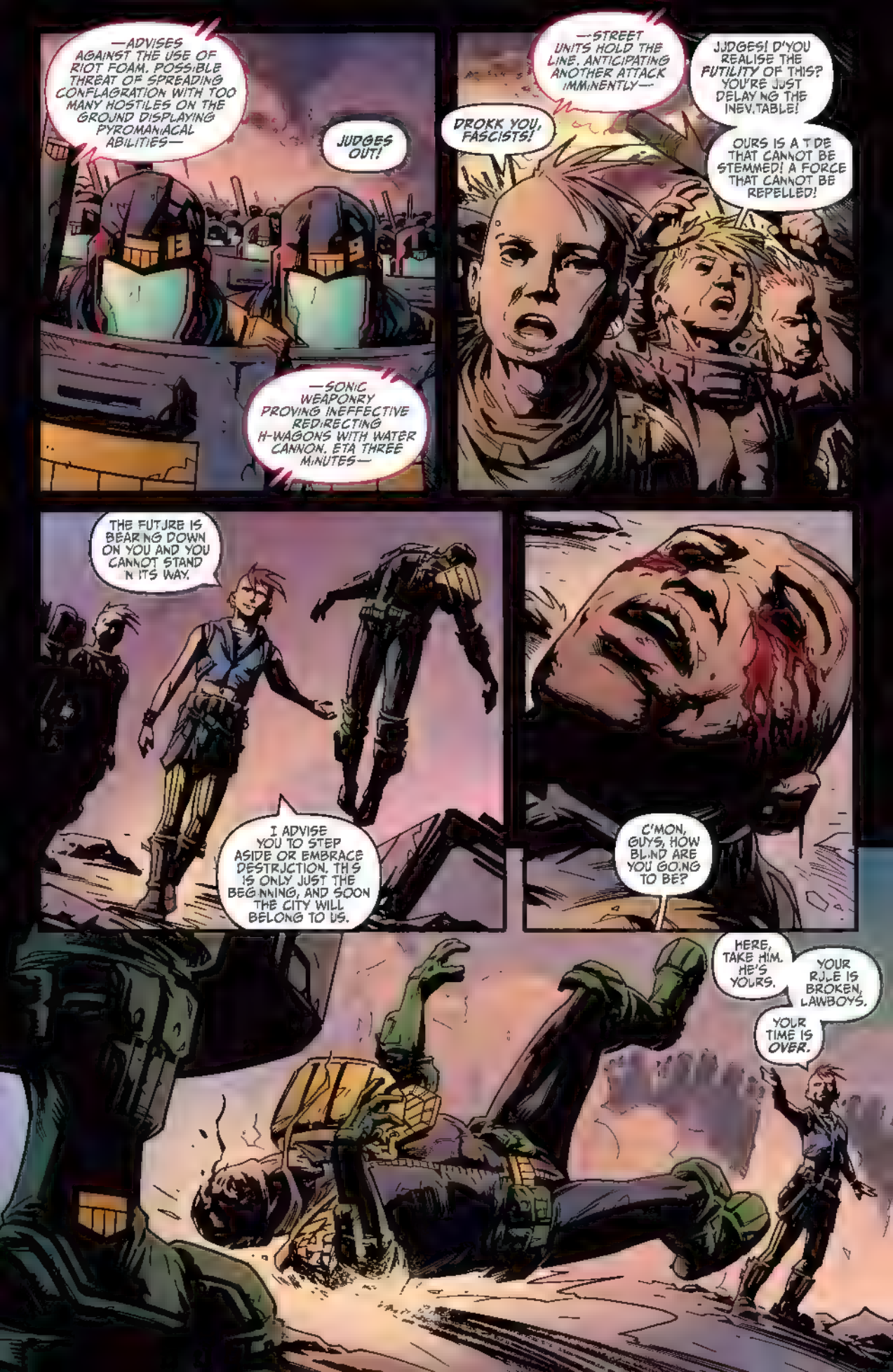
THE SILENCE PRESSES DOWN ON HIM, OPPRESSIVE. HE'S NEVER EXPERIENCED QUITE SUCH ISOLATION BEFORE, EVEN IN TRAINING RUNS IN THE CURSED EARTH. THE INTIMIDATING EXPANSE THERE HAD NOTHING ON THIS BROKEN MIRROR IMAGE OF HIS CITY.
HE WONDERS, NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHERE THE HELL HE'S ENDED UP.
THE CEASELESS CLAMOUR, THE COLOUR, THE CROWDS OF MEGA-CITY ONE ARE ALL DISCONCERTINGLY ABSENT. IT'S A VERSION DEVOID OF LIFE.
POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS RUN THROUGH HIS MIND. PLAGUE? MASS EVACUATION? IT OCCURS TO HIM THAT HE KNOWS NOTHING OF THE TIMELINE—THIS COULD BE THOUSANDS OF YEARS INTO THE FUTURE, AND THE METROPOLIS LONG SINCE DESERTED.
A BUBBLE OF ANXIETY IS STAMPED DOWN HARD. PROCEDURE REASSERTS ITSELF, PUSHES AS DE CHILDISH CONCERNS. HE HAS A DUTY TO UPHOLD AS A JUDGE, NO MATTER HOW UNUSUAL THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
EVIDENCE GATHERING SHOULD BE HIS FIRST PORT OF CALL.
MEGA-MART
DESPITE THE MART HAVING BEEN PLUNDERED, HE FINDS A COPY OF THE *ADVERTIZER* AMIDST THE DETRITUS DATED MARCH 10, 2079.
EXACTLY A YEAR PRIOR TO THE DAY THAT THE MANIFESTATIONS WERE FIRST REPORTED.
WHAT'S MORE TROUBLING, THOUGH, IS THE HEADLINE—
MC1 Advertizer
LATE EDITION
YOUTH IN REVOLT!
LAW BREAKS DOWN AS ANARCHY SPREADS.

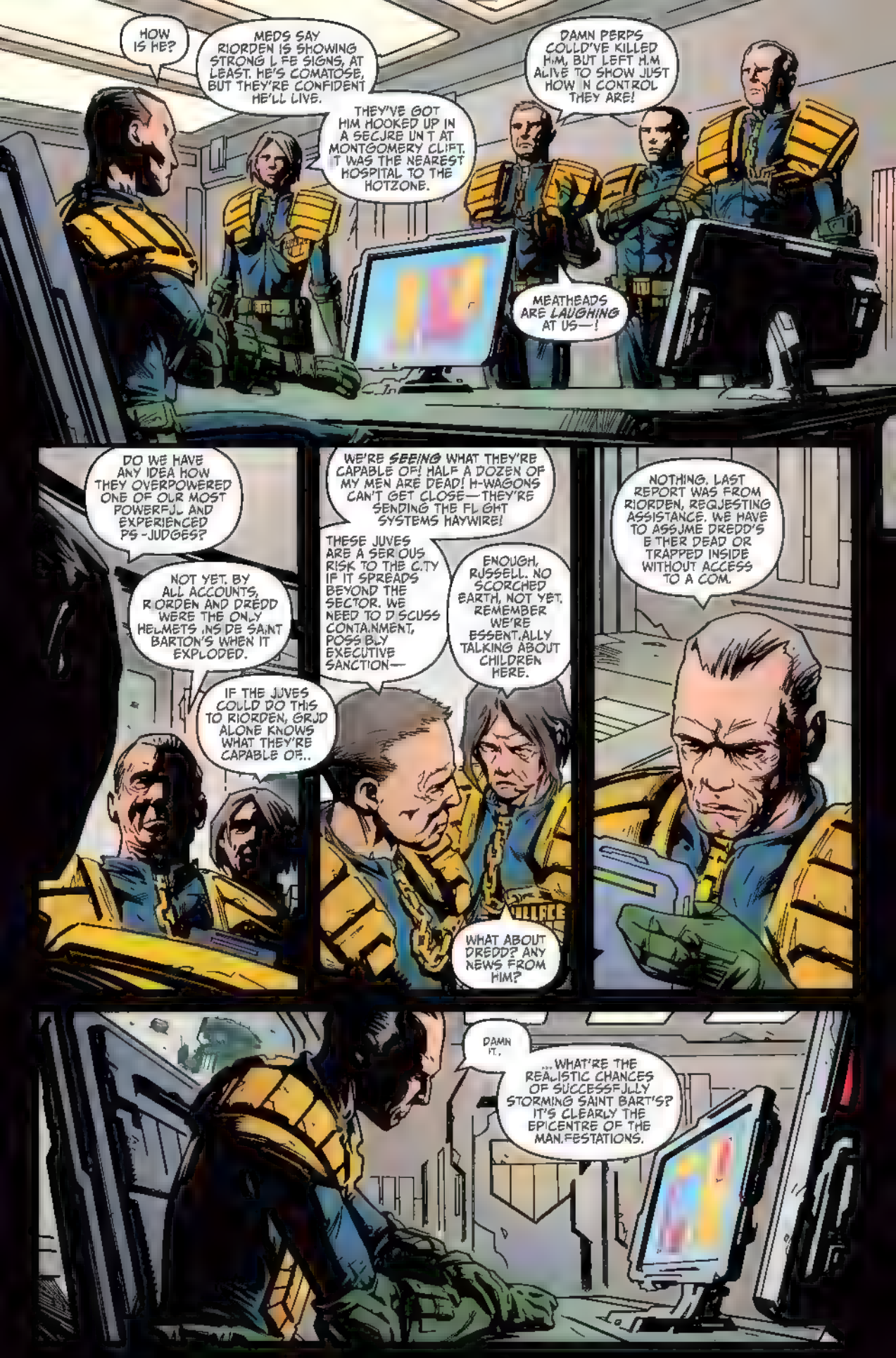
READING BETWEEN THE LINES OF THE JOURNALIST'S TERRIFIED INVECTIVE, IT HAD BEEN DISORDER ON A *MASSIVE* SCALE—JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OVERWHELMED BY AN ENEMY THAT, BY ALL ACCOUNTS, WAS FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED.
AND IT WAS AN ENEMY WITHIN.
DREDD HAD BEEN RIGHT—THERE'D BEEN NO WAR WITH A FOREIGN STATE, NOR A VIRAL OUTBREAK. THIS HAD BEEN A SOCIETY TEARING ITSELF APART, AN OUTRIGHT TAKEOVER THAT THE JUDGES HAD FAILED TO STOP.
LOOTING. RAMPANT VANDALISM. FLAGRANT LAWLESSNESS. HE FELT HIS FURY BUILD AS HE PICTURED THE CHAOS THE CITY HAD DESCENDED INTO..
. AND THE REALISATION THAT HIS MEGA-CITY ONE WAS NEXT IN LINE.
DON'T MOVE.

W-WAIT, STAND DOWN, I'M—
YOU'RE A JUDGE, I KNOW. I RECOGNISE WHAT'S LEFT OF THE UN FORM. WH CH SECTOR HOUSE ARE YOU OPERAT NG OUT OF?
SECTOR HOUSE? JH, ZA, AS WAS. BUT WE HAD TO RETREAT...
...LOOK, MY NAME'S HOPPER. TERR HOPPER. STREET DIV—
CARE TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION, HOPPER?
WHAT?
LISTEN, STOP FOR A SECOND. WHERE HAVE YOU COME FROM? YOU'RE NOT LOCAL, ARE YOJ? LOOK AT YOU—YOU'RE NOT A SURVIVOR.
FROM MEGA-CITY ONE. ANOTHER MEGA-C TY ONE. WHATEVER DESTROYED TH S ONE NOW HAS ITS SIGHTS SET ON MINE, AND I'M HERE TO STOP IT.
BUT YOU MUST BE BARELY OUT OF THE ACADEMY—
FROM WHAT I JNDERSTAND, WIDESPREAD JUVENILE DELINQUENCY REDJCED YOU TO THIS, SO R GHT NOW AGE IS CLEARLY IMMATER AL.
I REPEAT:
CARE TO EXPLA N THE SITUATION?

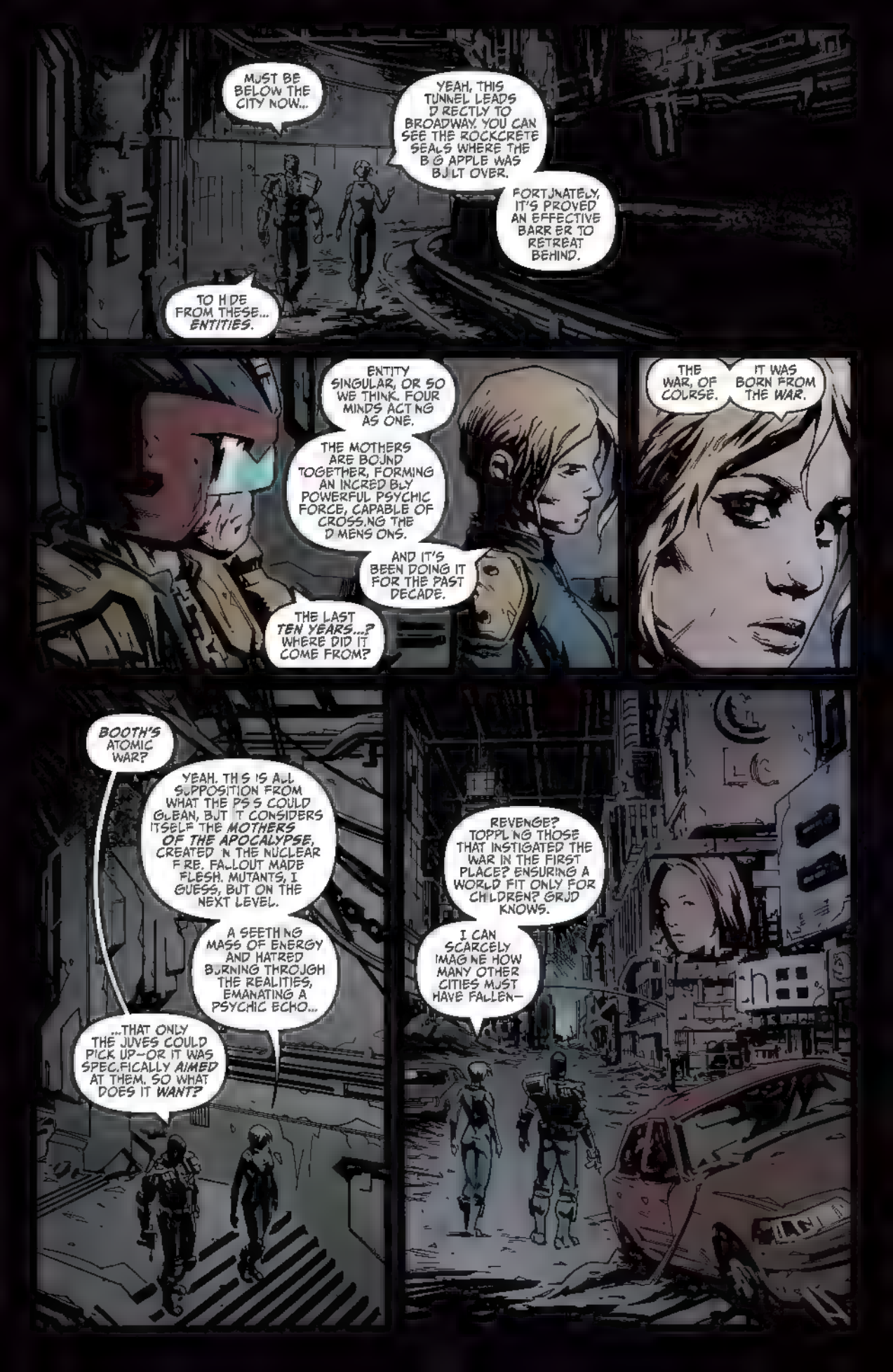
IT'D BE BETTER IF WE TALK ON THE MOVE. DOESN'T PAY TO L NGER ABOVE GROUND FOR TOO LONG.
I'D ALSO APPRECIATE IT IF YOU LOWERED THE LAWGIVER. I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY.
I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE.
DROKKSAKE— DREDD, IS IT? YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DEA_ING W TH HERE, WHAT WE'VE BEEN F GHTING AGA.NST!
THEY... THEY WERE REMORSELESS, RUTHLESS. THEY WENT THROUGH US, THROUGH THE CITY, L KE RIPPERJACKS...
THERE'S A COMMON THREAT THAT WANTS US ALL DEAD, AND ONCE YOU SEE THEM, YOU'LL KNOW WHO YOU SHOULD BE POINTING YOUR GUN AT.
PO NT TAKEN, THOUGH THE EMOT ONAL OUTBURST WAS UNBECOM.NG FOR ONE OSTENS BLY STILL WEAR NG THE UNIFORM.
JOVIS, WHAT KIND OF ST CK-UP-THE-ASS HEAD BOY HAVE THEY SENT US?
SO WHERE ARE YOU BASED NOW? HOW MANY OF YOU ARE LEFT?
UNDERC TY. WE PULLED BACK ONCE WE KNEW WE WERE FIGHTING A LOS NG BATTLE, TRIED TO EVAC_ATE THE REMAIN NG C TS TO COME WITH US.
MOST FLED INTO THE CURSED EARTH, THOUGH. TOOK WAGON TRAINS OUT. E THER THAT OR THEY'RE HELD UP IN THEIR APARTMENTS, TOO SCARED TO LEAVE.
HERE. ONE OF OUR ACCESS PO NTS WE USE FOR SUPPLY RUNS.
UNDERCITY?
DESPERATE TIMES. WE FIGURED WE COULD CONSOL DATE THERE, REGROUP. 'COURSE, THE TROGS ARE A PERS STENT PROBLEM—
TROUBLE?
THOUGHT I HEARD MOVEMENT. WE BETTER GET GO.NG.
I'M NOT USED TO RUNNING FROM PERPS.
BEL EVE ME, P CK YOUR FIGHTS WHEN YOU CAN. AMMO'S NOT EXACTLY PLENT FUL


SO WHAT KIND OF NUMBERS ARE WE TALK.NG ABOUT?
FORCES GOT INEVITABLY DISPERSED. I THINK MAYBE S X HUNDRED HELMETS FELL BACK TO OLD NEW YORK.
SIX HUNDRED? ACROSS THE ENT RE CITY? STOMM, WHAT KIND OF AJTHORITY'S LEFT?
WE LOST THE CHIEF JUDGE AND THE COUNCIL WHEN THE GRAND HALL GOT TORN IN TWO. DONT ASK. THE CREEPS HAVE GOT PSYCHIC POWERS ON A MONUMENTAL SCALE.
THE ACADEMY... WENT WITH IT. DROKK N' SCUM D DN'T DIFFERENT ATE BETWEEN YOUNG AND OLD, NOT WHEN THEY WORE A BADGE.
REST IS A SCATTERING OF THE DEPARTMENT DIVIS ONS.
HE HADN'T CONS DERED IT BEFORE, BUT 2079... HE AND RICO WOULD'VE BEEN CLOSE TO GRADJAT.NG, AND NOW IT SOUNDS AS IF NEITHER OF THEM HAD SJRVIVED IN THIS RJ.NED PARALLEL.
IT FELT LIKE HE WAS WALKING OVER H S OWN GRAVE.
WHO IS RESPONS BLE FOR TH S, HOPPER? DO YOJ KNOW WHAT'S MAN PULATING THE JUVES?
IT WASN'T UNTIL MONTHS AFTER THE F RST OUTBREAKS THAT PSI-DIV COJLD FOCJS ON THE CAJSE, AND EVEN THEN SECUR NG AN IDENT TY BURNED A LOT OF TELEPATHS OJT. BJT WE FINALLY DISCOVERED ITS NAME.
IT CALLS TSE.F THE FOUR MOTHERS.


—ADVISES AGAINST THE USE OF RIOT FOAM. POSSIBLE THREAT OF SPREADING CONFLAGRATION WITH TOO MANY HOSTILES ON THE GROUND DISPLAYING PYROMANIACAL ABILITIES—
JUDGES OUT!
—SONIC WEAPONRY PROVING INEFFECTIVE REDIRECTING H-WAGONS WITH WATER CANNON. ETA THREE MINUTES—
—STREET UNITS HOLD THE LINE. ANTICIPATING ANOTHER ATTACK IMMINENTLY—
DROKK YOU, FASCISTS!
JUDGES! D'YOU REALISE THE FUTILITY OF THIS? YOU'RE JUST DELAYING THE INEVITABLE!
OURS IS A TIDE THAT CANNOT BE STEMMED! A FORCE THAT CANNOT BE REPELLED!
THE FUTURE IS BEARING DOWN ON YOU AND YOU CANNOT STAND IN ITS WAY.
I ADVISE YOU TO STEP ASIDE OR EMBRACE DESTRUCTION. THIS IS ONLY JUST THE BEGINNING, AND SOON THE CITY WILL BELONG TO US.
C'MON, GUYS, HOW BLIND ARE YOU GOING TO BE?
HERE, TAKE HIM. HE'S YOURS.
YOUR RULE IS BROKEN, LAWBOYS.
YOUR TIME IS OVER.

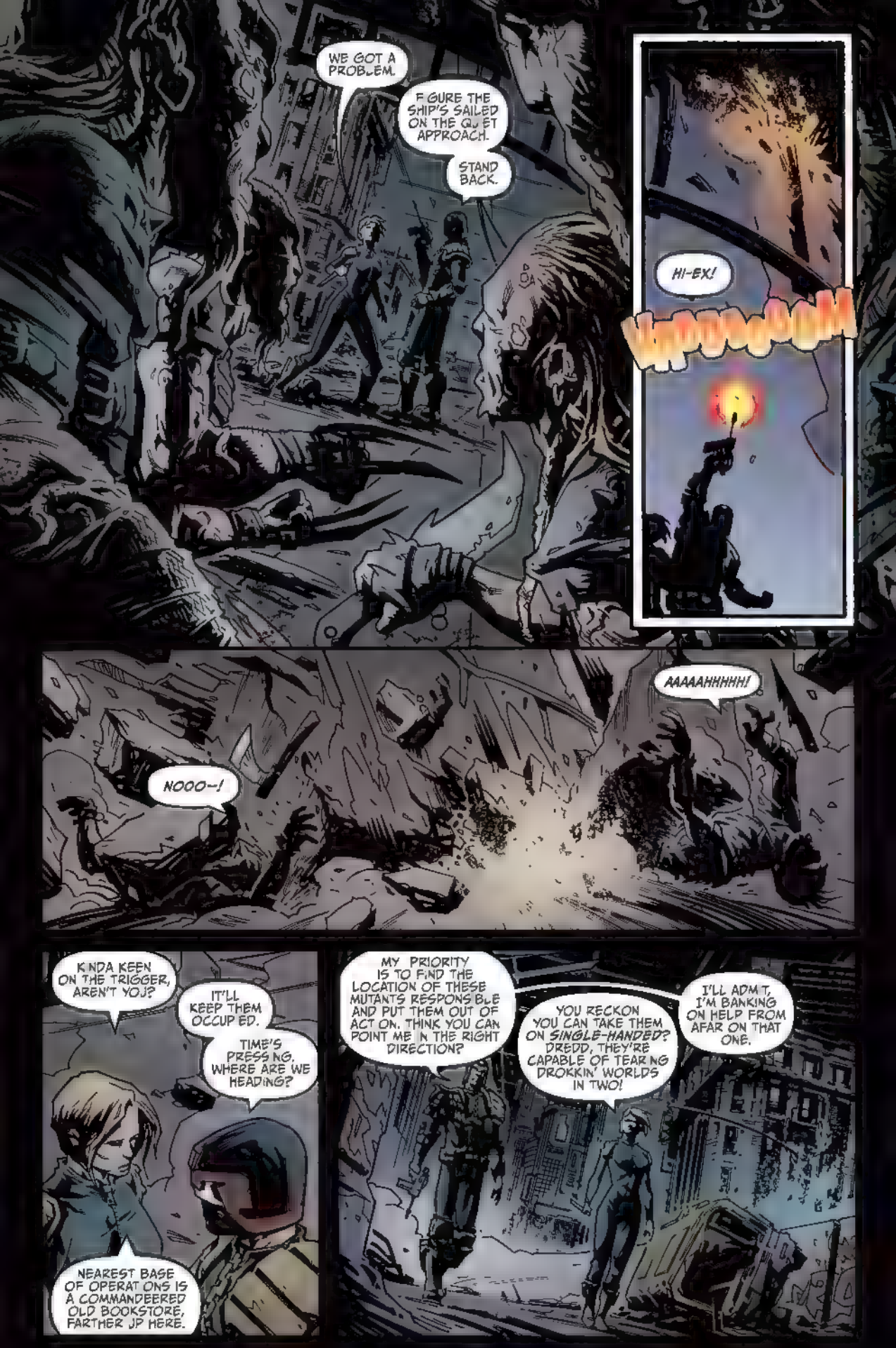

HOW IS HE?
MEDS SAY RIORDEN IS SHOWING STRONG L FE SIGNS, AT LEAST. HE'S COMATOSE, BUT THEY'RE CONFIDENT HE'LL LIVE.
THEY'VE GOT HIM HOOKED UP IN A SECURE UN T AT MONTGOMERY CLIFT. T WAS THE NEAREST HOSPITAL TO THE HOTZONE.
DAMN PERPS COULD'VE KILLED H.M, BUT LEFT H.M ALIVE TO SHOW JUST HOW N CONTROL THEY ARE!
MEATHEADS ARE LAUGHING AT US—!
DO WE HAVE ANY IDEA HOW THEY OVERPOWERED ONE OF OUR MOST POWERFUL AND EXPERIENCED PS-JUDGES?
NOT YET. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, R.ORDEN AND DREDD WERE THE ONLY HELMETS INSIDE SAINT BARTON'S WHEN IT EXPLODED.
IF THE JUVES COULD DO THIS TO RIORDEN, GRUD ALONE KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE CAPABLE OF..
WE'RE SEEING WHAT THEY'RE CAPABLE OF! HALF A DOZEN OF MY MEN ARE DEAD! H-WAGONS CAN'T GET CLOSE—THEY'RE SENDING THE FL GHT SYSTEMS HAYWIRE!
THESE JUVES ARE A SER OUS RISK TO THE C.TY IF IT SPREADS BEYOND THE SECTOR. WE NEED TO D SCUSS CONTA.NMENT, POSS BLY EXECUTIVE SANCTION—
ENOUGH, RUSSELL. NO SCORCHED EARTH, NOT YET. REMEMBER WE'RE ESSENT.ALLY TALKING ABOUT CHILDREN HERE.
WHAT ABOUT DREDD? ANY NEWS FROM HIM?
NOTHING. LAST REPORT WAS FROM RIORDEN, REQUESTING ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE TO ASSUME DREDD'S E THER DEAD OR TRAPPED INSIDE WITHOUT ACCESS TO A COM.
DAMN IT,
...WHAT'RE THE REALISTIC CHANCES OF SUCCESSFULLY STORMING SAINT BART'S? IT'S CLEARLY THE EPICENTRE OF THE MANIFESTATIONS.

WORD ON THE GROJND, CHIEF JJDGE, IS THAT, AT THE MOMENT, IT'S NEXT TO IMPOSS BLE. THE JUVES ARE TOO CONCENTRATED, TOO STRONG. ANY ALL-OUT ASSAULT RISKS A MASSIVE LOSS OF LIFE ON BOTH S DES—OURS, MAINLY.
WE GET TOO HEAVY WITH THIS, WE RISK SYMPATHET C FACT ONS FROM OUTSIDE THE SECTOR JOIN NG THE F GHT. LIKE YOU SAY, THE CREEPS' AGES IS A SENS T VE ISSJE.
SO WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS? THEY'RE JJVENILES, YES, BJT I'M NOT PREPARED TO STAND BACK AND ALLOW F_AGRANT LAWLESSNESS.
PSI-DIV HAS BEEN TRYING TO PENETRATE THE KIDS' PSYCHIC ENERGIES, BJT IT'S LIKE A WALL OF WHITE NOISE, NOTHING THEY CAN FIX ON. HOWEVER..
..THERE'S THE POSSIBIL.TY WE CAN GO IN THROUGH RIORDEN'S UNCONSCIOUS STATE.
GO ON.
RIORDEN'S OUR KEY WE THINK.
F A PS-JUDGE CAN RJN A SURFACE SCAN OF HIS BRAIN ACTIVITY, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK JP WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT WHAT'S GO.NG ON IN SA NT BARTON'S, MAYBE EVEN CHANNEL RIORDEN HIMSELF.
WOULD HE BE MENTALLY WELL ENOUGH? THE MAN'S BEEN THROUGH SEVERE TRAUMA—
WE BELIEVE SO. AN OPERAT VE IS ALREADY AT HIS BEDS DE, AND SHE'S REPORTING PICKING UP TRACE FRAGMENTS. IF SHE GOES DEEPER, WE COJLD WELL GET A CLEARER SENSE OF WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.
THERE MAY BE SOME RISK TO H S HEALTH, I CAN'T DENY THAT, BJT AT THIS STAGE, THAT'S AN ACCEPTABLE CHANCE WE HAVE TO TAKE.
I AGREE. WE'RE EXHAUSTING ALL OTHER ALTERNATIVES.
DO IT.


MUST BE BELOW THE CITY NOW...
YEAH, THIS TUNNEL LEADS DIRECTLY TO BROADWAY. YOU CAN SEE THE ROCKCRETE SEALS WHERE THE BIG APPLE WAS BUILT OVER.
FORTUNATELY, IT'S PROVED AN EFFECTIVE BARRIER TO RETREAT BEHIND.
TO HIDE FROM THESE... *ENTITIES.*
ENTITY SINGULAR, OR SO WE THINK. FOUR MINDS ACTING AS ONE.
THE MOTHERS ARE BOUND TOGETHER, FORMING AN INCREDIBLY POWERFUL PSYCHIC FORCE, CAPABLE OF CROSSING THE DIMENSIONS.
AND IT'S BEEN DOING IT FOR THE PAST DECADE.
THE LAST *TEN YEARS...?* WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
THE WAR, OF COURSE.
IT WAS BORN FROM THE *WAR.*
BOOTH'S ATOMIC WAR?
YEAH. THIS IS ALL SUPPOSITION FROM WHAT THE PSIS COULD GLEAN, BUT IT CONSIDERS ITSELF THE *MOTHERS OF THE APOCALYPSE,* CREATED IN THE NUCLEAR FIRE. FALLOUT MADE FLESH. MUTANTS, I GUESS, BUT ON THE NEXT LEVEL.
A SEETHING MASS OF ENERGY AND HATRED BURNING THROUGH THE REALITIES, EMANATING A PSYCHIC ECHO...
...THAT ONLY THE JUVES COULD PICK UP—OR IT WAS SPECIFICALLY *AIMED* AT THEM. SO WHAT DOES IT *WANT?*
REVENGE? TOPPLING THOSE THAT INSTIGATED THE WAR IN THE FIRST PLACE? ENSURING A WORLD FIT ONLY FOR CHILDREN? GRJD KNOWS.
I CAN SCARCELY IMAGINE HOW MANY OTHER CITIES MUST HAVE FALLEN—

FOOODEEE!
DROKK—!
RAPID FIRE!
UKK!
NO, WAIT, DREDD, YOU'LL BRING MORE ON US—
—STOMM, THEY WOULD'VE HEARD THAT...
...THE TROGS KNOW WE'VE BEEN FORCED DOWN HERE, KNOW WE'RE SHORT ON WEAPONS. THEY'RE GETTNG BOLDER, AREN'T SCARED OF US ANYMORE.
YOU WOULD'VE PREFERRED I USED HARSH LANGJAGE?
I PREFER IT *QUIET*.
LET'S MOVE.

CRAP HOSTILES ALL AROUND US.
HOPE YOU'VE HAD EXPERIENCE WITH HAND TO HAND.
TOP OF MY YEAR, BETWEEN MY BROTHER AND ME. PERFECT SCORES ON ALL COMBAT SIMULAT ONS
I'M NO ROOKIE, HOPPER.
AND THIS IS NO SIMULAT ON.
GO!
CUT AND RUN, DREDD! THEY BOG US DOWN, WE'VE GOT NO CHANCE!
THESE CANN.BAL DEGENERATES SHOULD BE NO MATCH FOR A MEGA-C TY JUDGE—
FOOODDEEE! EATEEE!
—DAMMIT—!
GUK!
FIRST RULE: NEVER UNDERESTIMATE YOUR ENEMY, NO MATTER HOW BAD THEY SMELL.

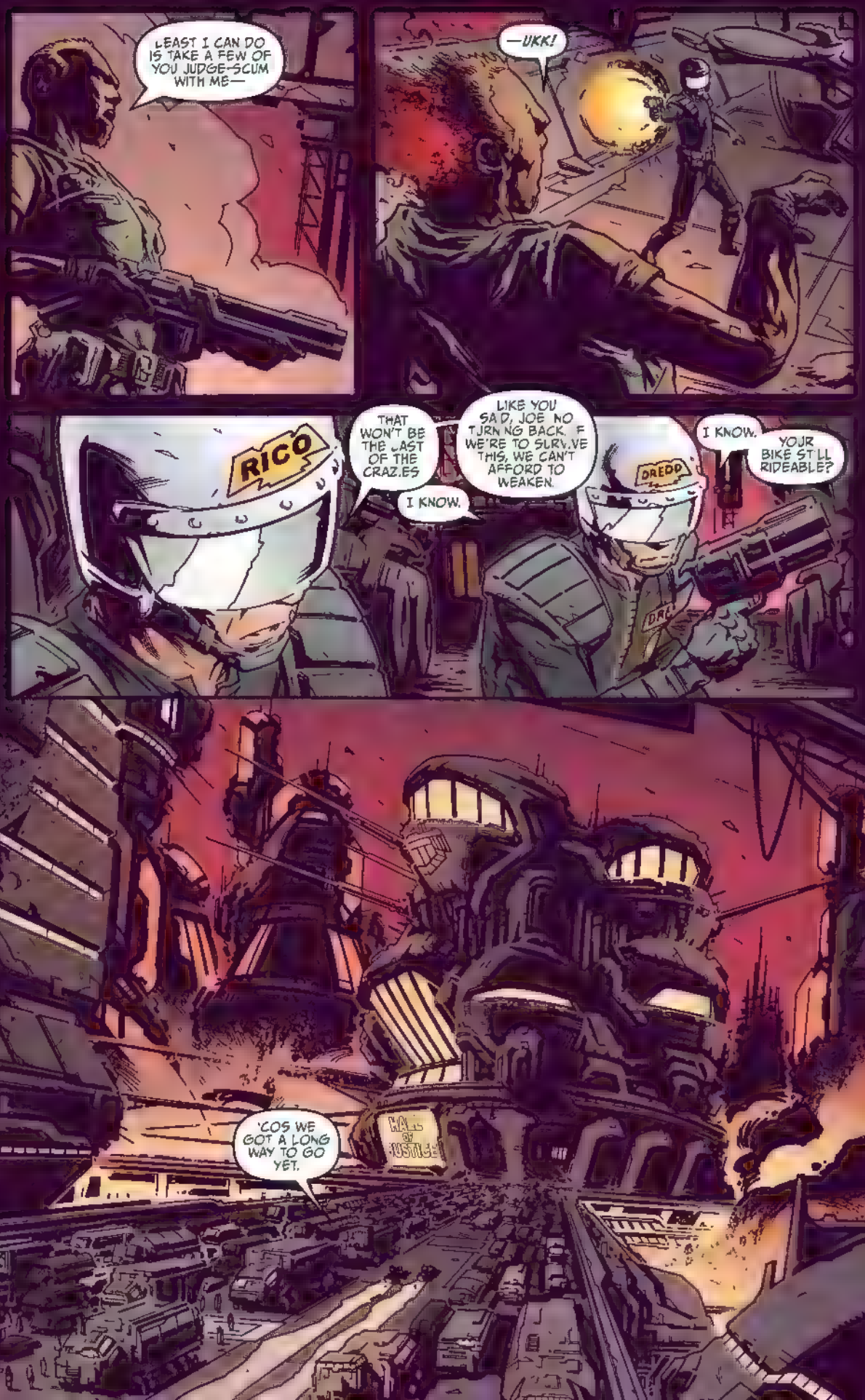

WE GOT A PROBLEM.
I FIGURE THE SHIP'S SAILED ON THE QUIET APPROACH.
STAND BACK.
HI-EX!
KRAKOOO

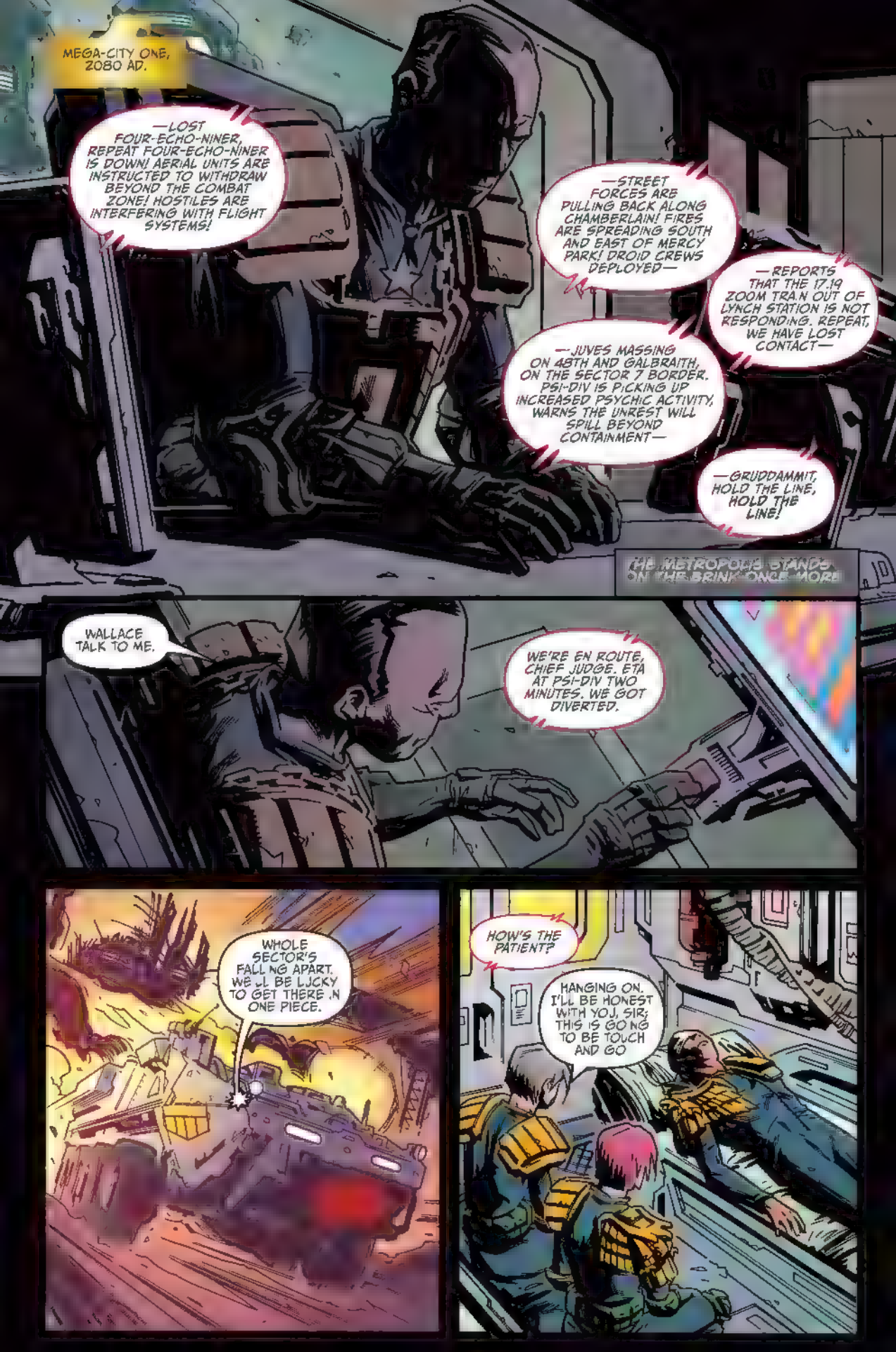
"JUST WAITING ON H.M. TO GET BACK IN TOUCH..."
WELL?
I'M GOING DEEPER... THERE'S A NAME ON A BUILDING. THE JUVIE HOUSE. SAINT BARTON'S.
IT'S THE LOCUS OF THE PSI-OUTBREAKS. CAN YOU SEE WHAT'S CAUSING IT?
HE AND DREDD... THEY'RE INSIDE, FACING A VOID, AN ABSENCE. A TEAR IN THE DIMENSIONAL WALL. SOMETHING WANTS IN... A MALIGN INTELLIGENCE...
IT... IT HAS TO BE TACKLED AT ITS SOURCE. DREDD'S PASSING THROUGH, DISAPPEARING INTO THE DARKNESS...
YOU'RE SAYING DREDD CROSSED OVER INTO *ANOTHER DIMENSION?* TO STOP WHATEVER THIS IS FROM MANIFESTING HERE?
IS HE STILL ALIVE? CONTACTABLE?
RIORDEN... THINKS SO. IN FACT, THERE'S A WORD REPEATING, LINKED TO DREDD. OVER AND OVER, HE'S BROADCASTING IT, LIKE A DISTRESS SIGNAL.
"PSI-AMPLIFIER."
HE'S INSISTENT. WE HAVE TO GET RIORDEN TO A PSI-AMPLIFIER.
PSI
"OUR *SURVIVAL* DEPENDS ON IT"

HM.
WHAT'S UP?
JUST THINKING... WHY DIDN'T THE JUVES FOLLOW YOU DOWN HERE? IT CAN'T BE THE TROGS KEEPING THEM OUT, THEY'D BE NO OPPOSITION.
IF THE PURPOSE OF THE MOTHERS' TAKEOVER WAS EXTERMINATION, SURELY THEY WOULD'VE HAD YOU ALL HUNTED DOWN.
STRAND BOOKSTORE
I DUNNO, THEY... THEY SEEMED HAPPY TO RULE TOPSIDE. ONCE WE PULLED BACK, THE CITY WAS THEIRS. THEY JUST WANTED US GONE.
YEAH. AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT SOUNDS LIKE TO ME, HOPPER? A RAIDING PARTY. TEXTBOOK CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR: GO IN, DRIVE THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER OUT, TAKE WHAT YOU WANT.
WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS, WHOEVER'S PULLING THE JUVES' STRINGS...
THIS ISN'T REVENGE FOR SINS OF THE PAST. THIS ISN'T PAYBACK.
"...THEY'RE COMMITTING THE MOST AUDACIOUS ROBBERIES OF ALL TIME."

MEGA-CITY ONE, 2070 AD
THE WORLD CHANGES FOREVER.
CHAPTER 4
RIDE, RICO!
THE SKED'S CHOKED, JOE! WE'RE NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH—!
PRESIDENT ROBERT L. BOOTH INSTIGATES THE ATOMIC WAR, SEALING THE FATE OF MILLIONS. THE BOMBS DROP, THE MUSHROOM CLOUDS ROIL, AND A NUCLEAR FIRESTORM ENGULFS THE PLANET
WE HAVE TO! THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!
RICO
IT'S GONNA BE LIKE THIS ALL THE WAY TO THE GRAND HALL! C.T.S ARE JAMMING EVERY ROUTE, TRYING TO ESCAPE! THERE'LL BE CARNAGE!
DREDD
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO STOP! OUR ORDERS TAKE PRIORITY!
WE HIT ANY OBSTACLES—
—WE GO OVER THEM!
TURBO BOOST!

YOU JUDGES! YOU DID THIS! YOU BROUGHT THIS DOWN ON US!
YOU'VE KILLED US ALL!
MURDERING DROKKIN' BASTARDS!
GRUD—!
RICO! YOU OK?
DREDD
I'LL LIVE.
RICO
DROKKIN' KILL YOU—
HOLD ON. LET ME DEAL WITH THIS CREEP.
DREDD
DROP THE WEAPON, CIT ZEN! YOU'RE A DANGER TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS!
I'M AUTHORISED IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS SUCH AS THESE TO USE LETHAL FORCE!
WE'RE ALL DEAD, BOY! WHOLE WORLD'S GONE TO HELL!


LEAST I CAN DO IS TAKE A FEW OF YOU JUDGE-SCUM WITH ME—
—UKK!
RICO
THAT WON'T BE THE LAST OF THE CRAZIES
I KNOW.
LIKE YOU SAID, JOE. NO TURNING BACK. IF WE'RE TO SURVIVE THIS, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WEAKEN.
DREDD
I KNOW.
YOUR BIKE STILL RIDEABLE?
'COS WE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO YET.
HALL OF JUSTICE

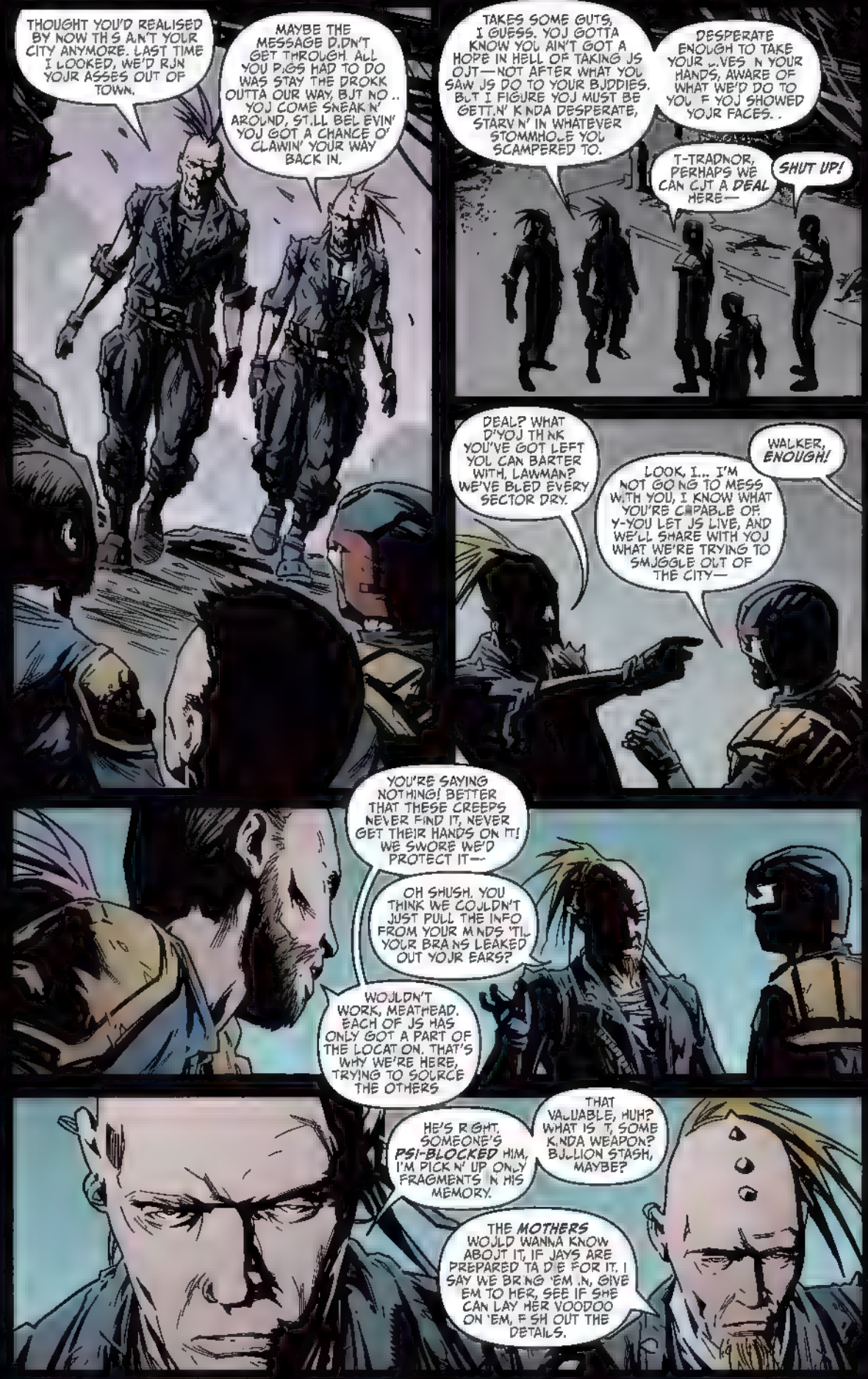

MEGA-CITY ONE, 2080 AD.
—LOST FOUR-ECHO-NINER, REPEAT FOUR-ECHO-NINER IS DOWN! AERIAL UNITS ARE INSTRUCTED TO WITHDRAW BEYOND THE COMBAT ZONE! HOSTILES ARE INTERFERING WITH FLIGHT SYSTEMS!
—STREET FORCES ARE PULLING BACK ALONG CHAMBERLAIN! FIRES ARE SPREADING SOUTH AND EAST OF MERCY PARK! DROID CREWS DEPLOYED—
—REPORTS THAT THE 17.19 ZOOM TRA.N OUT OF LYNCH STATION IS NOT RESPONDING. REPEAT, WE HAVE LOST CONTACT—
—JUVES MASSING ON 48TH AND GALBRAITH, ON THE SECTOR 7 BORDER. PSI-DIV IS PICKING UP INCREASED PSYCHIC ACTIVITY, WARNS THE UNREST WILL SPILL BEYOND CONTAINMENT—
—GRUDDAMMIT, HOLD THE LINE, HOLD THE LINE!
THE METROPOLIS STANDS ON THE BRINK ONCE MORE
WALLACE TALK TO ME.
WE'RE EN ROUTE, CHIEF JUDGE. ETA AT PSI-DIV TWO MINUTES. WE GOT DIVERTED.
WHOLE SECTOR'S FALL NG APART. WE LL BE LJCKY TO GET THERE .N ONE PIECE.
HOW'S THE PATIENT?
HANGING ON. I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOJ, SIR; THIS IS GO NG TO BE TOUCH AND GO

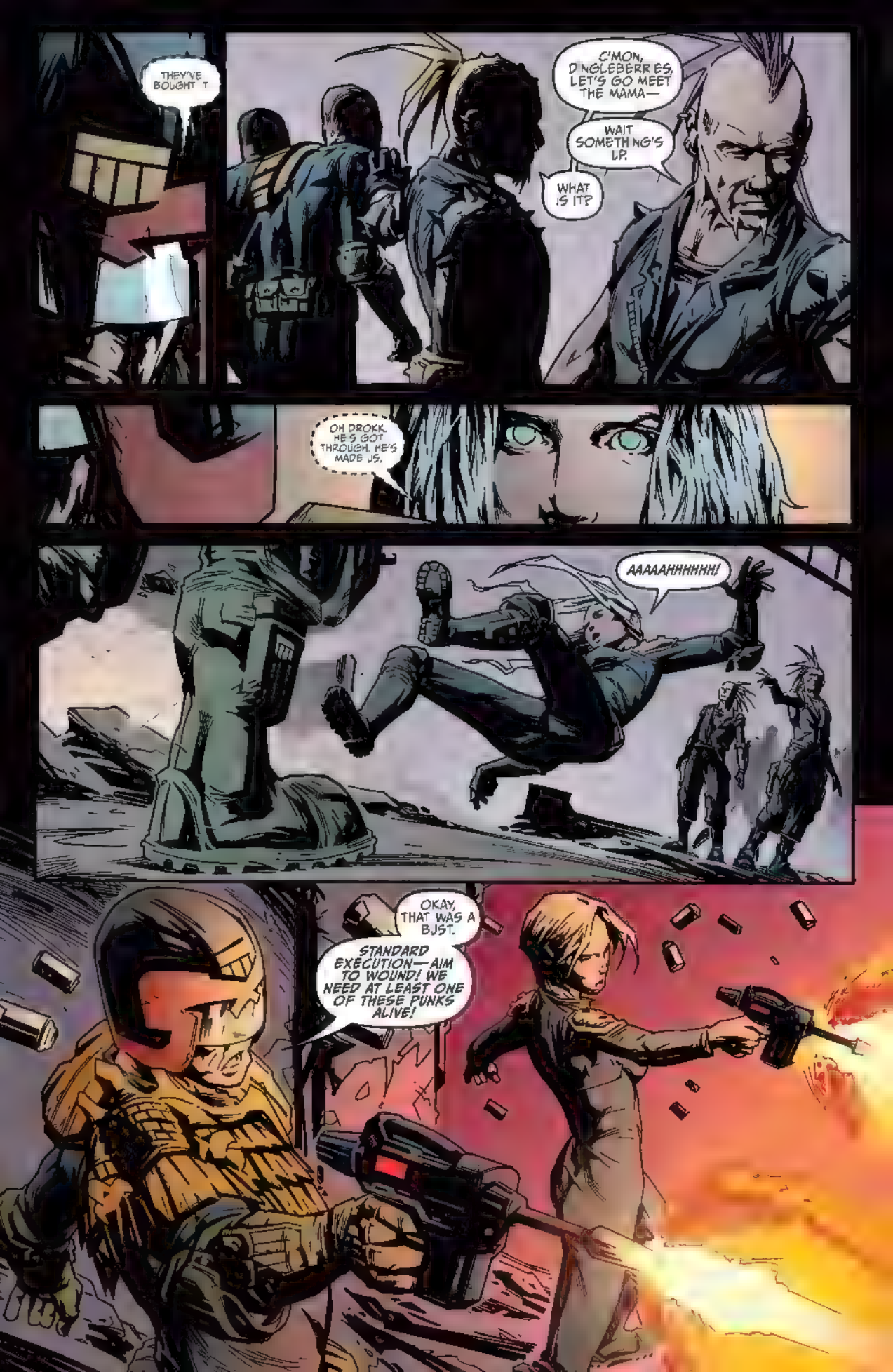
"RIGHT NOW A MIRACLE COULD BE OUR BEST CHANCE."
YOU'RE SAYING THIS IS... WHAT, SOME KIND OF CON?
THIS? LOOK AT US!
I CAN'T SAY FOR CERTAIN WHAT THIS IS, HOPPER. BUT THE WAY I SEE IT, THE M.O.—WHILE ON A WHOLE OTHER SCALE—ISN'T THAT DIFFERENT FROM ANY REGULAR HIJACK.
BUT OUR PSYS.. WHAT THEY PICKED UP...
TAKE THE OBJECTIVE BY FORCE, USE IT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE, PICK IT CLEAN. IN THIS CASE, THE TARGETS HAVE BEEN ENTIRE CITIES, AND THE CREEPS HAVE GOT JUVES TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK.
I'M NOT SUGGESTING THE PERPS AREN'T POWERFUL. CLEARLY THEY ARE. BUT I'M NOT BUYING THIS VENGEFUL SPIRIT OF THE APOCALYPSE ACT.
IT'S A SMOKESCREEN; A HALLOWEEN MASK TO HIDE BEHIND WHILE THEY SACK THE CITY.
THIS IS BULLSTOMM! WHAT THE DROKK DO YOU KNOW? YOU DIDN'T SEE THE MEATHEADS TEAR THE BLOCKS DOWN, DEC MATE OUR FORCES! GOOD JUDGES DIED AT THEIR HANDS! AND FOR WHAT? SO THEY COULD ROB THE PLACE?
WHY ARE WE LISTENING TO THIS KID, ANYWAY? SOME WET-BEHIND-THE-EARS ROOKIE LECTURING US LIKE WE NEED—
WHETHER YOU AGREE WITH ME OR NOT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE WHAT'S VITAL NOW IS THAT I STOP THIS HAPPENING TO MY MEGA-CITY.
WHATEVER THE INTENTIONS OF THE CREEPS PULLING THE STRINGS, I CAN'T ALLOW IT TO FALL.

YOU? YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THEM ON?
YOU MUST BE BARELY OUT OF THE ACADEMY! YOU'LL GET YOURSELF KILLED!
I'M A JUDGE. IT'S MY DUTY, AS IT IS YOURS
MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN COWERING DOWN HERE SO LONG YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THAT
DROKK YOU—
ENOUGH. SQUABBLING GETS US NOWHERE.
DREDD'S RIGHT. WHATEVER THIS THING IS, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO DO WHAT'S NECESSARY TO DESTROY IT. WE MAY HAVE LOST OUR CITY, BUT OTHERS SHOULD NOT SUFFER THE SAME FATE.
BUT WE'VE TRIED.. IT'S TOO POWERFUL. WE CAN'T EVEN TRACK A LOCATION.
IS THIS TRUE?
WE HAVEN'T ENTIRELY BEEN SITTING ON OUR HANDS. THING'S SHIELDING ITSELF—WILLIS HERE'S A TELEPATH AND SHE CAN'T PINPOINT IT.
WE CAN'T SEEM TO GET CLOSE IT'S LIKE A DEFENCE MEASURE, A CLOAK.
PERHAPS THERE WAS MORE TO THE ENTITY'S PSYCHIC CAPABILITIES THAN MANIPULATING CHILDREN—IT WAS POSSIBLE IT COULD CLOUD MINDS TOO, HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT. IT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE JUDGES' LACK OF INITIATIVE IN TACKLING IT.
WAS HE ALSO SUSCEPTIBLE? OR DID IT REQUIRE FURTHER EXPOSURE TO ITS PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE? THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
THE JUVES—WHERE ARE THEY?

WHAT DO YOJ MEAN?
I SAW NEITHER H DE NOR HAIR OF THEM TOPS DE THEY WEREN'T RUNN NG RAMPANT IN THIS CITY THEY'VE CLAIMED FOR THEMSELVES. NO S GN OF THEM RJLING THE STREETS. IT WAS DESERTED.
I FIGURE THEY'RE CONCENTRATED SOMEWHERE, DRAWN TO A SPECIFIC SPOT. MAYBE NOW THAT THEY'VE REACHED THE END OF THE R JSEFJLNESS, THEY'VE BEEN PJLLED BACK.
NO. NO, THEY'RE OJT THERE THERE'S ALWAYS A RISK OF DISCOVERY ON OUR SUPPLY RUNS WE'VE LOST MORE THAN ONE OF OUR NUMBER TO THESE CREEPS WHERE THEY'VE SURPRISED US.
WE'RE JUST SO LACKING IN RESOURCES, WE CAN'T MATCH THEM...
LET'S CAN THE DEFEAT ST TALK, HOPPER. IT'S WHAT THEY WANT—TO HAVE YOJ BEJEVING YOJ'RE WEAK, THAT YOU'VE ALREADY LOST IT KEEPS YOU OJT OF THE R WAY.
IF THEY'VE ST.LL GOT ONE EYE F.XED ON YOJR MOVEMENTS—ENSJR NG YOJ DON'T EMERGE FROM H D NG—THEN SO MUCH THE BETTER. MEANS WE CAN JSE THAT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.
WE COAX THEM OUT, LET THEM LEAD JS BACK TO THEIR BASE. FOR WHEREVER THEY'RE CONGREGATING, I'LL BE DAMN SURE THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND THE SOJRCE OF THE MAN FESTATIONS.
AND YOU TH NK YOU CAN STOP T?
GRAB AS MUCH AMMO AS YOU'VE GOT. THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH RETREAT, ENOUGH SJRRENDER.
IT'S T ME THE LAW WAS REASSERTED

"WAIT, SHOULDN'T WE GATHER TOGETHER WHAT WE CAN OF THE REST OF THE JUDGE FORCE? THEY'RE SCATTERED ACROSS THE UNDERCITY. WE'D BE ABLE TO POOL—"
"THE MORE BODIES ABOVE GROUND, THE MORE WE ALERT THE PERPS WE DON'T WANT THEM TO KNOW WE'RE COMING."
"FINALLY LEARNING THE ART OF *STEALTH*, HUH, DREDD?"
"IT SEEMS AN APPROACH WORTH ATTEMPTING."
GOT SOMETHING.
TWO OF THEM INBOUND. I CAN SENSE AN INCREASE IN PSI-ACTIVITY GETTING CLOSER.
I'LL TRY TO PROJECT ENOUGH PSI-FLACK SO THEY CAN'T PICK UP OUR PRESENCE.
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY THIS?
THEY DON'T BITE. WE GIVE THEM A HELPING HAND
WELL, WELL WHAT WE GOT HERE?
YOU JAY-BOYS KINDA OFF YOUR PATCH, AIN'T YA?
OH GRUD.


THOUGHT YOU'D REALISED BY NOW TH S AIN'T YOUR CITY ANYMORE. LAST TIME I LOOKED, WE'D RJN YOJR ASSES OUT OF TOWN.
MAYBE THE MESSAGE D.DN'T GET THROUGH. ALL YOU P.GS HAD TO DO WAS STAY THE DROKK OUTTA OUR WAY, BJT NO .. YOJ COME SNEAK N' AROUND, ST.LL BEL EVIN' YOU GOT A CHANCE O' CLAWIN' YOUR WAY BACK IN.
TAKES SOME GUTS, I GUESS. YOJ GOTTA KNOW YOL AIN'T GOT A HOPE IN HELL OF TAKING JS OJT—NOT AFTER WHAT YOL SAW JS DO TO YOUR BJDDIES. BJT I FIGURE YOJ MUST BE GETT.N' K NDA DESPERATE, STARV N' IN WHATEVER STOMMHOLE YOL SCAMPERED TO.
DESPERATE ENOUGH TO TAKE YOUR ..VES N YOUR HANDS, AWARE OF WHAT WE'D DO TO YOL F YOJ SHOWED YOJR FACES. .
T-TRADNOR, PERHAPS WE CAN CJT A DEAL HERE—
SHUT UP!
DEAL? WHAT D'YOJ TH NK YOU'VE GOT LEFT YOL CAN BARTER WITH, LAWMAN? WE'VE BLED EVERY SECTOR DRY.
LOOK, I... I'M NOT GO NG TO MESS W.TH YOU, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE C■PABLE OF. Y-YOU LET JS LIVE, AND WE'LL SHARE WITH YOJ WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO SMJGGLE OUT OF THE CITY—
WALKER, ENOUGH!
YOU'RE SAYING NOTHING! BETTER THAT THESE CREEPS NEVER FIND IT, NEVER GET THEIR HANDS ON IT! WE SWORE WE'D PROTECT IT—
OH SHUSH. YOU THINK WE COJLDN'T JUST PULL THE INFO FROM YOUR M NDS 'TIL YOUR BRA NS LEAKED OUT YOJR EARS?
WOJLDN'T WORK, MEATHEAD. EACH OF JS HAS ONLY GOT A PART OF THE LOCAT ON. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, TRYING TO SOURCE THE OTHERS
HE'S R GHT. SOMEONE'S PSI-BLOCKED HIM, I'M PICK N' UP ONLY FRAGMENTS N HIS MEMORY.
THAT VA.UABLE, HUH? WHAT IS T, SOME K.NDA WEAPON? BJ..ION STASH, MAYBE?
THE MOTHERS WOJLD WANNA KNOW ABOJT IT, IF JAYS ARE PREPARED TA D E FOR IT. I SAY WE BR NG 'EM .N, GIVE EM TO HER, SEE IF SHE CAN LAY HER VOODOO ON 'EM, F SH OUT THE DETAILS.

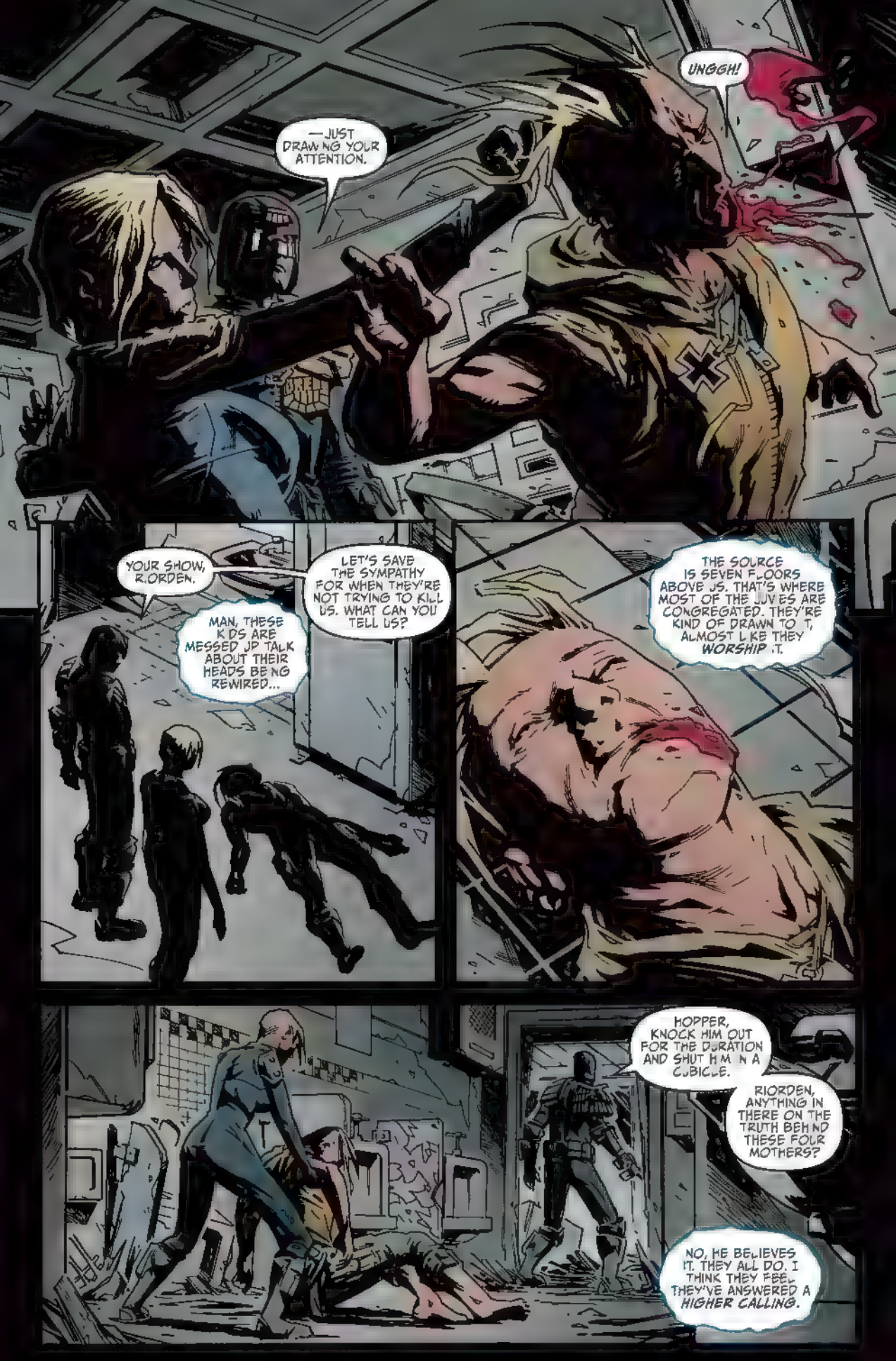

THEY'VE BOUGHT T
C'MON, D'NGLEBERR ES, LET'S GO MEET THE MAMA—
WAIT SOMETH NG'S UP.
WHAT IS IT?
OH DROKK. HE S GOT THROUGH. HE'S MADE US.
AAAAAHHHHHH!
OKAY, THAT WAS A BJST.
STANDARD EXECUTION—AIM TO WOUND! WE NEED AT LEAST ONE OF THESE PUNKS ALIVE!

HAVEN'T WE BEEN THROUGH THIS? HOW LONG'S IT GONNA TAKE BEFORE REALITY S NKS .N?
MAYBE THEY NEED IT REPEATING ONE MORE TIME FOR THE HARD O'THINK N'
YOU HAVE NO HOPE.
HE UNDERSTOOD NOW HOW THE C TY HAD FALLEN, HOW THE JUST CE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN OVERRUN. THE SHEER POWER OF THE CREEPS WAS UNSTOPPABLE, A RELENTLESS FORCE OF NATURE.
HE'D BEEN WRONG—ARROGANT—TO ASSUME THAT HE COULD BE TS EQJAL, AND HIS PLAN HAD GOT PEOPLE KILLED.
RES.STANCE.
RESISTANCE.. SEEMED FJTILE.
OW. BET THAT'S STARTIN' TO SMART, HUH?
I'M CONSTR CT NG YOUR ARTER ES, BREATH'S GETT NG SHORT, I BET, STARS DANC N' BEFORE YOUR EYES.
MAYBE I'LL STR.P THE VE NS RIGHT OUTTA YOJR BODY. WHAT DO YOU TH.NK?
I TH.NK... YOJ'RE A PJNK.. WHO'S LEARNT A MAGIC TRICK.
DROP THE ACT... AN' WE'LL SEE HOW YOU STAND JP THEN.

YEAH, THAT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN. NOT WHILE I—
EARL—!
SORRY I'M LATE, DREDD.
RIORDEN?
I WAS BEGINNING TO WONDER WHERE YOU'D GONE.
YEAH, WELL. THINGS GOT.. COMPLICATED

UH, CARE TO FILL ME IN?
PSI-JUDGE, PSYCHICALLY LINKING FROM MY MEGA-CITY. YOU HEARING HIM TOO?
HOW'D YOU PULL OFF THE REMOTE TERMINATIONS, RIORDEN? IN FACT, HOW'D YOU FIND US?
HAD TO BOOST MY PSI-POWER. I'M CURRENTLY IN A COMA, SO I'M CHANNELLING UNCONSCIOUS ENERGY. I TOLD THEM TO PUT ME IN A PSI-AMPLIFIER, IT'S MAGNIFYING MY TALENTS ONE HUNDRED-FOLD
PSI-AMPLIFIER?
EXPERIMENTAL KIT, NOT PAST THE PROTOTYPE STAGE. ONCE PLUGGED IN, IT DRAWS ON MY MENTAL RESERVES, EXPANDING MY CAPABILITIES- MEANING I COULD FOLLOW YOUR PSIGNATURE, AND ALSO SLIDE INSIDE THE PERPS' BRAINS UNNOTICED AND EXERT A LITTLE PRESSURE.
ONE-WAY STREET, UNFORTUNATELY—THAT'S WHY IT HASN'T BEEN DEVELOPED FURTHER. POWER IT REQUIRES, ONCE YOU GO INTO THE PSI-AMP, YOU DON'T COME OUT.
I'M SORRY. AND I'M GRATEFUL. IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, LOOKING LIKELY NEITHER OF US IS GOING TO MAKE IT OUT OF THIS ONE.
HOPPER, YOU READY?
I'M READY. BUT WHAT'S THE PLAN NOW? WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP THERE. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PENETRATE THE PSI-CHAFF, SEE BEHIND THE VEIL. I KNOW WHERE THE SOURCE IS ***BASED***—AND I THINK I CAN SMUGGLE YOU BOTH IN THERE UNDER ITS RADAR.
THE OLD ***EMPIRE STATE BUILDING***. THAT'S WHERE IT'S EMANATING FROM. THAT'S WHERE YOU NEED TO GO.

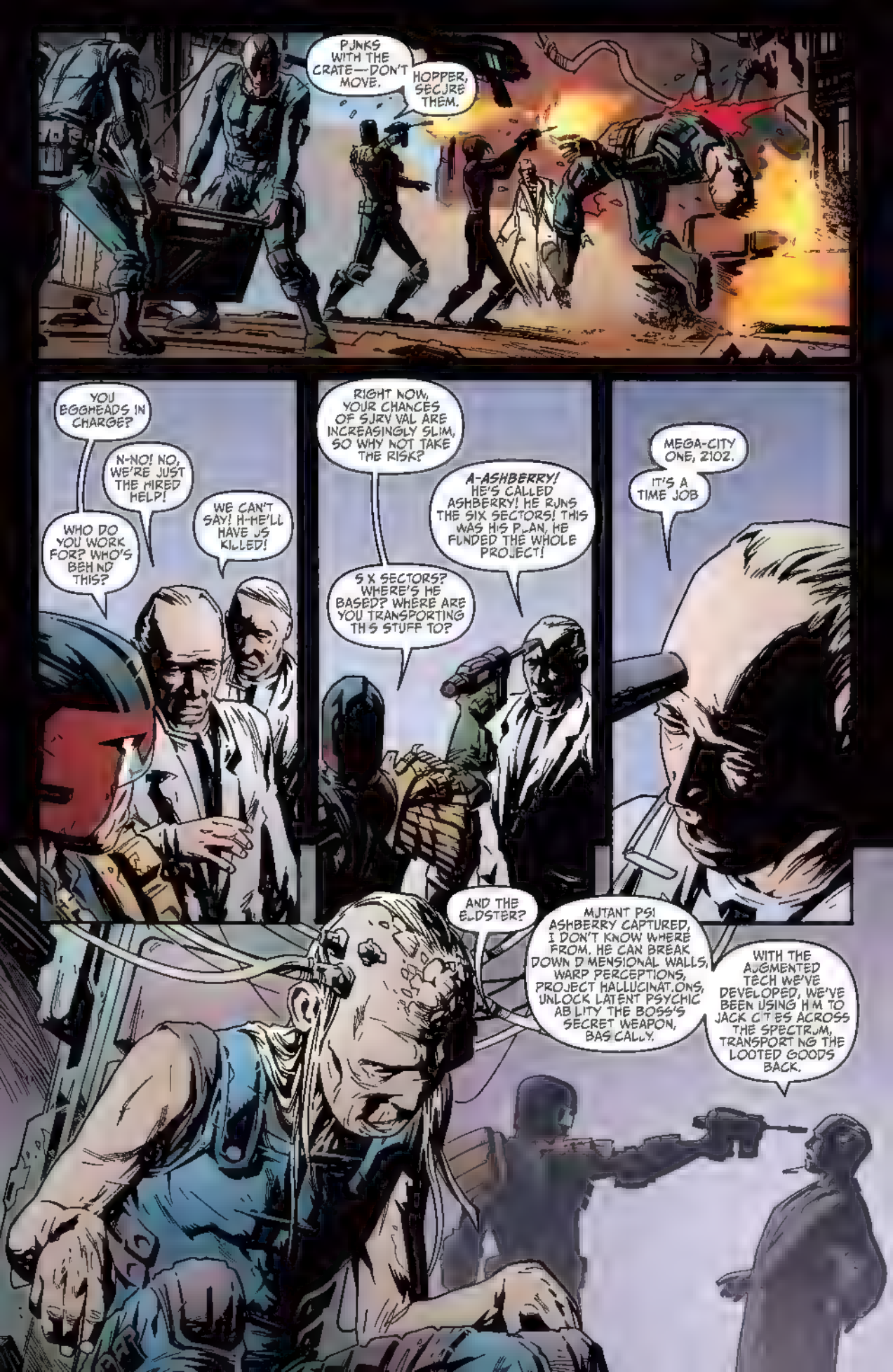
YOUR PSI-BUDDY'S SO STRONG, HE COULDN'T DEAL WITH THIS THING HIMSELF?
GUESS NOT. TO STOP IT CROSSING OVER INTO OUR DIMENSION HE SAID DISABLED HERE. MAYBE ONLY SO MUCH YOU CAN DO AT SUCH A REMOVE.
LEAVING IT TO A COUPLE OF SLAB-JOCKS, THOUGH? I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU, I FEEL OUT OF MY DEPTH.
FIRE EXIT
LIKEWISE. BUT WE DON'T PICK AND CHOOSE OUR CASES.
NEVER MIND. JUST A WORD OF ADVICE I WAS GIVEN RECENTLY.
STILL, THE GENERAL RULE APPLIES. WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE SHOT AT THIS—
HUH?
"—AND TO SAVE A CITY, IT'S A JUDGE'S DUTY TO DO NOTHING LESS THAN DIE TRYING."
DON'T MOVE, CREEP.
YOU KNOW I COULD MAKE YOU EAT THAT WITHOUT EVEN BLINKING.
I DON'T DOUBT IT. BUT IF I'M HONEST, I WASN'T PLANNING ON SHOOTING YOU—


—JUST DRAWING YOUR ATTENTION.
UNGGH!
YOUR SHOW, R.ORDEN.
LET'S SAVE THE SYMPATHY FOR WHEN THEY'RE NOT TRYING TO KILL US. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US?
MAN, THESE KIDS ARE MESSED UP TALK ABOUT THEIR HEADS BEING REWIRED...
THE SOURCE IS SEVEN FLOORS ABOVE US. THAT'S WHERE MOST OF THE HIVES ARE CONGREGATED. THEY'RE KIND OF DRAWN TO IT, ALMOST LIKE THEY WORSHIP IT.
HOPPER, KNOCK HIM OUT FOR THE DURATION AND SHUT HIM IN A CUBICLE.
RIORDEN, ANYTHING IN THERE ON THE TRUTH BEHIND THESE FOUR MOTHERS?
NO, HE BELIEVES IT. THEY ALL DO. I THINK THEY FEEL THEY'VE ANSWERED A HIGHER CALLING.

HIGHER CALL NG WAS RIGHT..
MUH.
WHAT... WHAT IS TH S?
BRA.NWASHING ON A VAST SCA.E. MASS HYPNOT C MAN PL.ATION. QUAS-REL G OUS FERVOUR.
G VE THOSE WHO HAVE NOTH NG A LEADER TO FO.LOW, AND YOU'VE GOT AN ARMY THAT CAN TAKE THE WORLD.

GIVE THEM A GOD AND THEY'LL BUTCHER IN ITS NAME.
SEE THE HOLO-PROJECTOR? THAT'S WHAT THE FOUR MOTHERS ARE: A SHAM, A FRONT.
SO WHERE ARE THE CREEPS BEHIND IT?
CLOSE, I BET. LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RIP THE MASK OFF.
GO!
THE SCREAMS HIT THEM LIKE A WAVE, A SOLID WALL OF BEREAVED ANGUISH.
FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, DREDD AND HOPPER FEEL AS IF THEIR MINDS HAVE BEEN WHITED OUT BY THE PSYCHIC BACKBLAST—
—BUT THEN THE SURROUNDINGS SHIFT, THE PRETENCE WOBBLES, THEIR PERCEPTION RIGHTS ITSELF—

—AND SUDDENLY REALITY IS REVEALED.
HELL—!
—KILL 'EM!
FOUND OUR CREEPS, THEN?
I'D SAY SO.
LIFT UP ANY WEIRD-LOOKING STONE AND IT'S GUARANTEED UNDERNEATH YOU'LL FIND JUST SOME LOWLIFE PULLING A SCAM.


PUNKS WITH THE CRATE—DON'T MOVE.
HOPPER, SECURE THEM.
YOU EGGHEADS IN CHARGE?
N-NO! NO, WE'RE JUST THE HIRED HELP!
WE CAN'T SAY! H-HE'LL HAVE US KILLED!
WHO DO YOU WORK FOR? WHO'S BEHIND THIS?
RIGHT NOW, YOUR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL ARE INCREASINGLY SLIM, SO WHY NOT TAKE THE RISK?
A-ASHBERRY! HE'S CALLED ASHBERRY! HE RUNS THE SIX SECTORS! THIS WAS HIS PLAN, HE FUNDED THE WHOLE PROJECT!
SIX SECTORS? WHERE'S HE BASED? WHERE ARE YOU TRANSPORTING THIS STUFF TO?
MEGA-CITY ONE, 2102.
IT'S A TIME JOB
AND THE ELDSTER?
MUTANT PSI ASHBERRY CAPTURED, I DON'T KNOW WHERE FROM. HE CAN BREAK DOWN DIMENSIONAL WALLS, WARP PERCEPTIONS, PROJECT HALLUCINATIONS, UNLOCK LATENT PSYCHIC ABILITY THE BOSS'S SECRET WEAPON, BASICALLY.
WITH THE AUGMENTED TECH WE'VE DEVELOPED, WE'VE BEEN USING HIM TO JACK CITIES ACROSS THE SPECTRUM, TRANSPORTING THE LOOTED GOODS BACK.

THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW.
JOVUS—!
DREDD?
CLEAR THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE CITY, HOPPER. COULDN'T RISK LETTING HIM LIVE.
I'M NOT QUESTIONING YOUR JUDGEMENT. BUT TAKE A LOOK—
—THE KIDS HAVE WOKEN UP.
Y-YOU CUT THE PSI-SIGNAL! FEEDBACK LOOP IS GOING TO BE FRYING HALF THEIR BRAINS!
GUESS YOU'VE GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO, THEN, HAVEN'T YOU?
DREDD!
I'M SIFTING THROUGH THE RESIDUAL PSI-ENERGY OF THE SOURCE, SEE IF I CAN SUMMON UP ENOUGH POWER TO KEEP A FRACTURE OPEN. GET AS CLOSE TO IT AS YOU CAN, THE DOORWAY COULD ONLY BE AVAILABLE FOR A SECOND.
OK.
LAB CREEPS— PUSH A CURRENT THROUGH THE DEAD FREAK, SEE IF YOU CAN'T JUMP-START HIS BATTERY BRIEFLY.
WH-WHAT—?
YOU HEARD THE MAN. DO IT.
TELEPORTERS ARE STILL SET FOR ASHBERRY'S LOCATION. YOU COULD FOLLOW THE TRAIL BACK TO H.M.
TOO LATE. THE HARDWARE WAS NIXED IN THE FIREFIGHT ON THE WAY IN. HE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE ONE FOR THE FUTURE
R ORDEN?
I'M DETECTING THE PSI-INCURSION WANING.
YEAH, I JUST SHUT OFF THE SOURCE.
THAT MEANS THE BREACHES ARE GOING TO BE CLOSING. YOU'RE GOING TO BE TRAPPED OVER THERE IF WE DON'T MOVE FAST.
WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

YOU'RE A FINE JUDGE, HOPPER. THE CITY WILL NEED HELMETS LIKE YOU IF IT'S TO REBUILD ITSELF.
WOW. PRAISE FROM THE ACADEMY BRAT.
THANKS, DREDD.
THESE MEATHEADS BELONG TO YOU. YOUR JURISDICTION, YOUR PUNISHMENT. FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN ABOUT ASHBERRY'S SET-UP.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM.
KIND OF INTERESTED IN WHAT THEY CAN TELL US ABOUT TIME TRAVEL...
...THAT COULD OFFER US ALL MANNER OF POSSIBILITIES.
"WHERE DID YOU REMATERIALISE?"
HAPPY BIRTH
"CIT'S APARTMENT IN MATTHAU. DON'T THINK THE JUVES WERE TOO HAPPY WITH ME GATECRASHING THEIR PARTY."

OFFICE OF CHIEF JUDGE GOODMAN, GRAND HALL OF JUSTICE
MARCH 17, 2080 AD
NO SHORTAGE OF UNHAPPY KIDS GENERALLY. ONCE THE PSI-ENERGY WAS SHUT DOWN, THE FIGHT WENT OUT OF THEM. WE'VE BEEN HERDING THEM INTO CUBES THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.
IT'S GIVEN US THE OPPORTUNITY TO TIGHTEN SEVERAL PUBLIC-ORDER LAWS, CRACK DOWN ON ILLEGAL GATHERINGS. ANYONE BELOW THE AGE OF TWENTY'S BEEN UNDER CURFEW ACROSS SECTOR.
AND ASHBERRY?
NAME'S UNKNOWN TO US AT THE MOMENT. MAYBE THAT'LL CHANGE IN THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS. WE'LL KEEP AN OPEN FILE ON HIM.
HELL OF A HEIST MODEL—RIPPING OFF REALITIES YOU CAN'T BE TRACED IN, EXPLOITING THE JUVES' RAW PSI-POTENTIAL, HIDING BEHIND THE SHADOW OF THE ATOMIC WAR, MOVING STOLEN GOODS USING TIME TECH...
...YOU SEE WHAT I MEANT ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY.
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT RIORDEN.
"YOU'RE PREPARED TO ADMIT PSI-DIV HAS ITS BENEFITS, THEN? YOU CAN SEE NOW HOW WE NEED THEM AT THE FOREFRONT OF CRIMES LIKE THIS.
"RIORDEN KNEW THE RISKS, KNEW THE PSI-AMP WOULD DRAW ON HIS LIFEFORCE. HE SACRIFICED EVERYTHING FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CITY."
AS YOU NEARLY DID, DREDD. YOUR BRAVERY IS TO BE COMMENDED, BUT YOUR ACTIONS WERE RECKLESS. THERE COULD'VE BEEN ANYTHING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DIVIDE WHEN YOU STEPPED THROUGH. YOU COULD'VE BEEN LOST FOREVER.
WE'VE TOO MUCH INVESTED IN YOU, SON. YOU'RE YOUNG, IMPETUOUS, PERHAPS. YOU'VE A LOVE FOR THE LAW, BUT YOU'RE NOT BULLETPROOF.
REMEMBER THAT
SIR.
THE END.

GALLERY

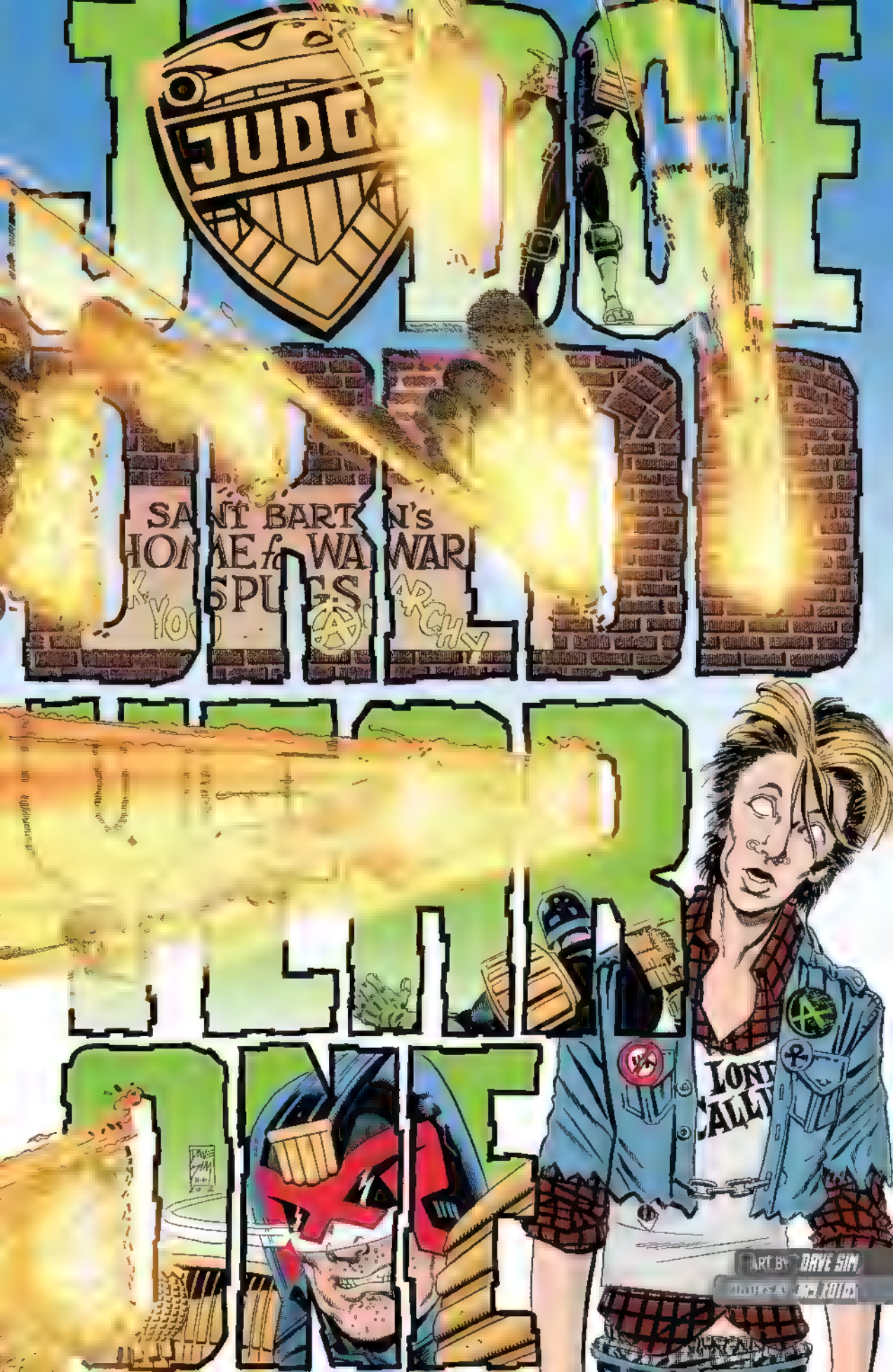
#STAPLES 12
ART BY GREG STAPLES
SUE BROWN

ART BY GREG STAPLES

ART BY GREG STAPLES

ART BY GREG STAPLES

ART BY CARLOS EZQUERRA
COLORS LEONARDO OLIVEIRA


JUDGE
DREDD
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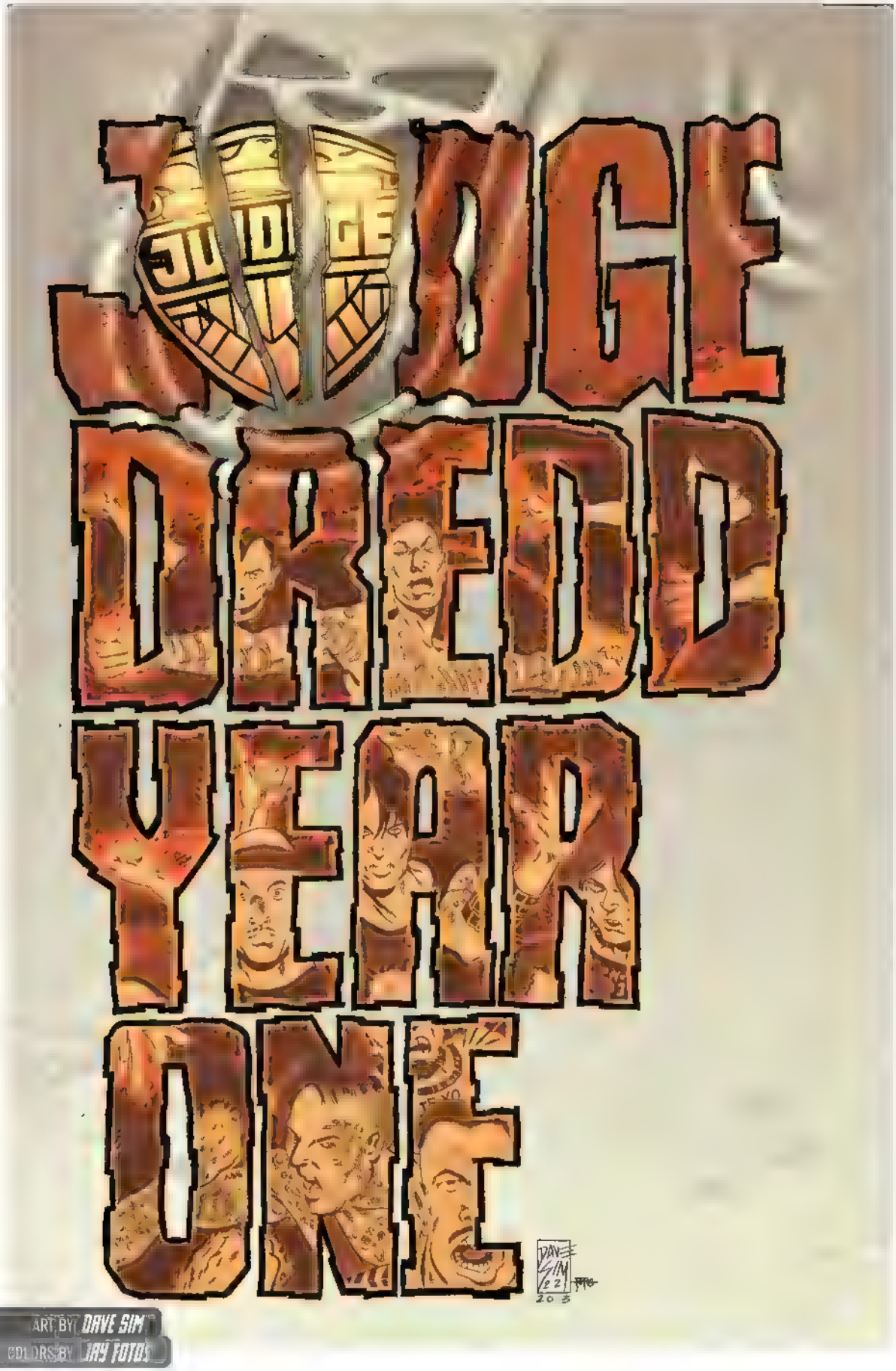
ART BY DAVE SIM



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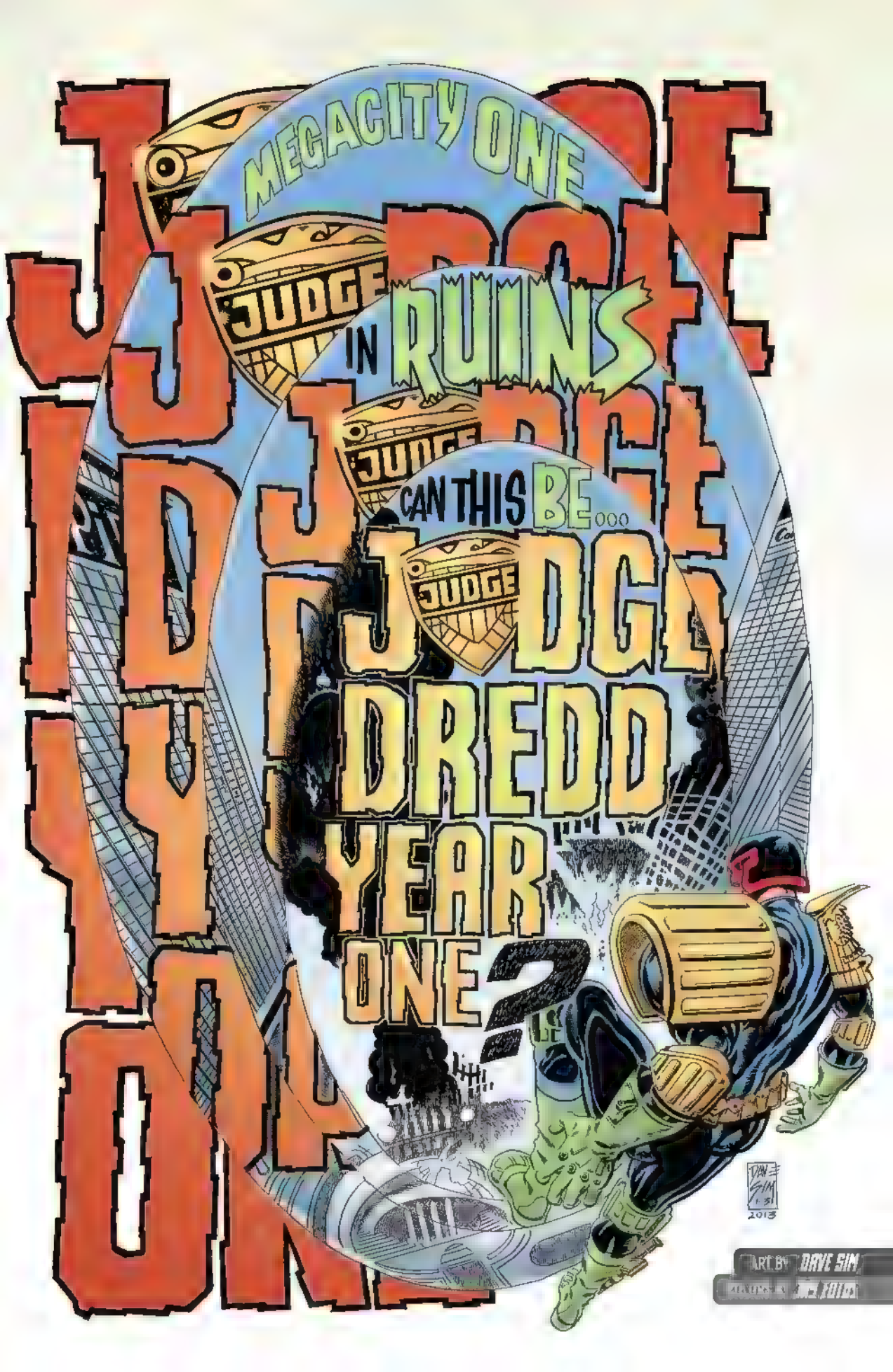
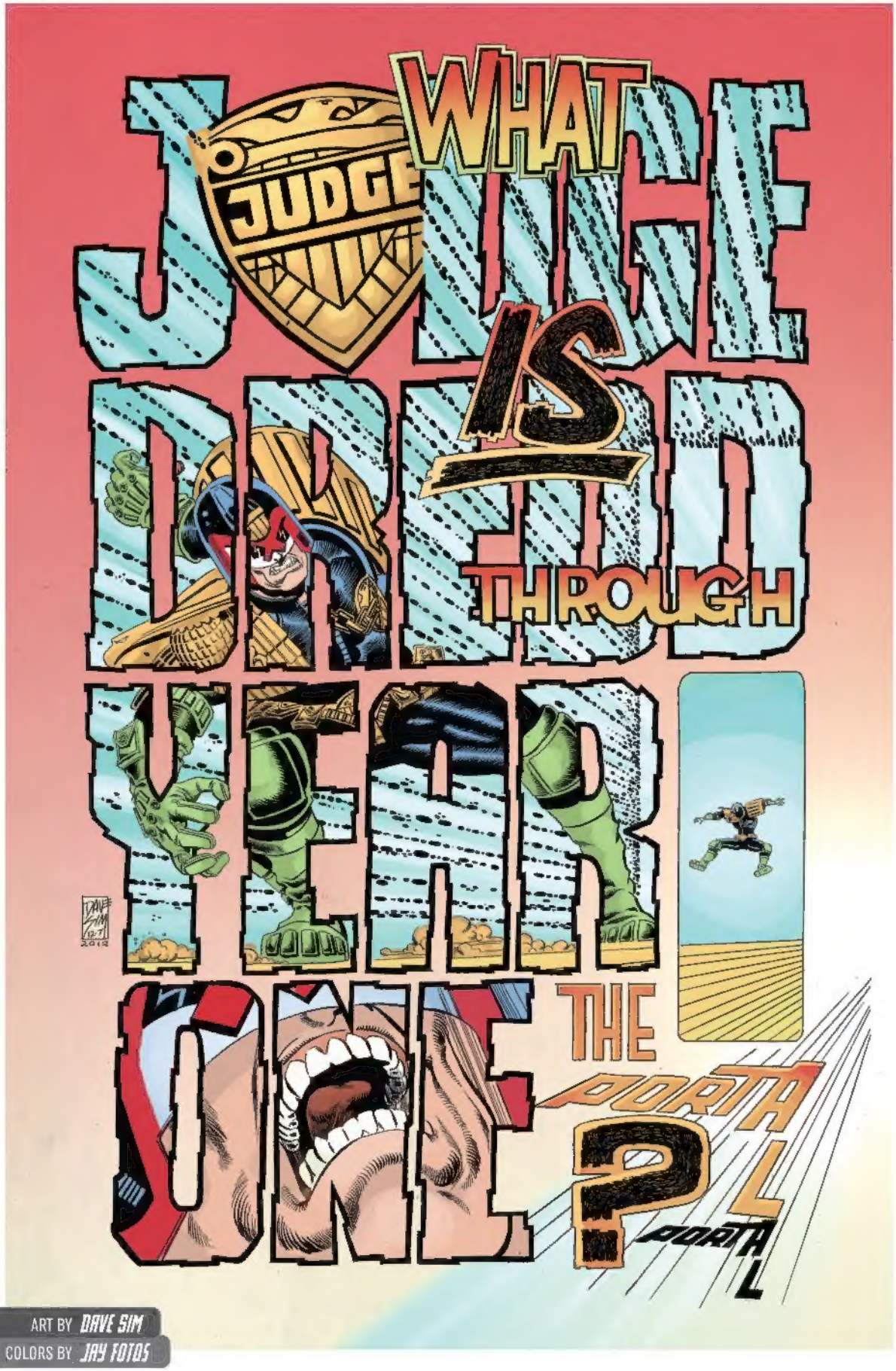

MEGACITY ONE
JUDGE
IN RUINS
CAN THIS BE...
JUDGE
DREDD
YEAR
ONE?
DAN SIM
1-31
2013
ART BY DAVE SIM



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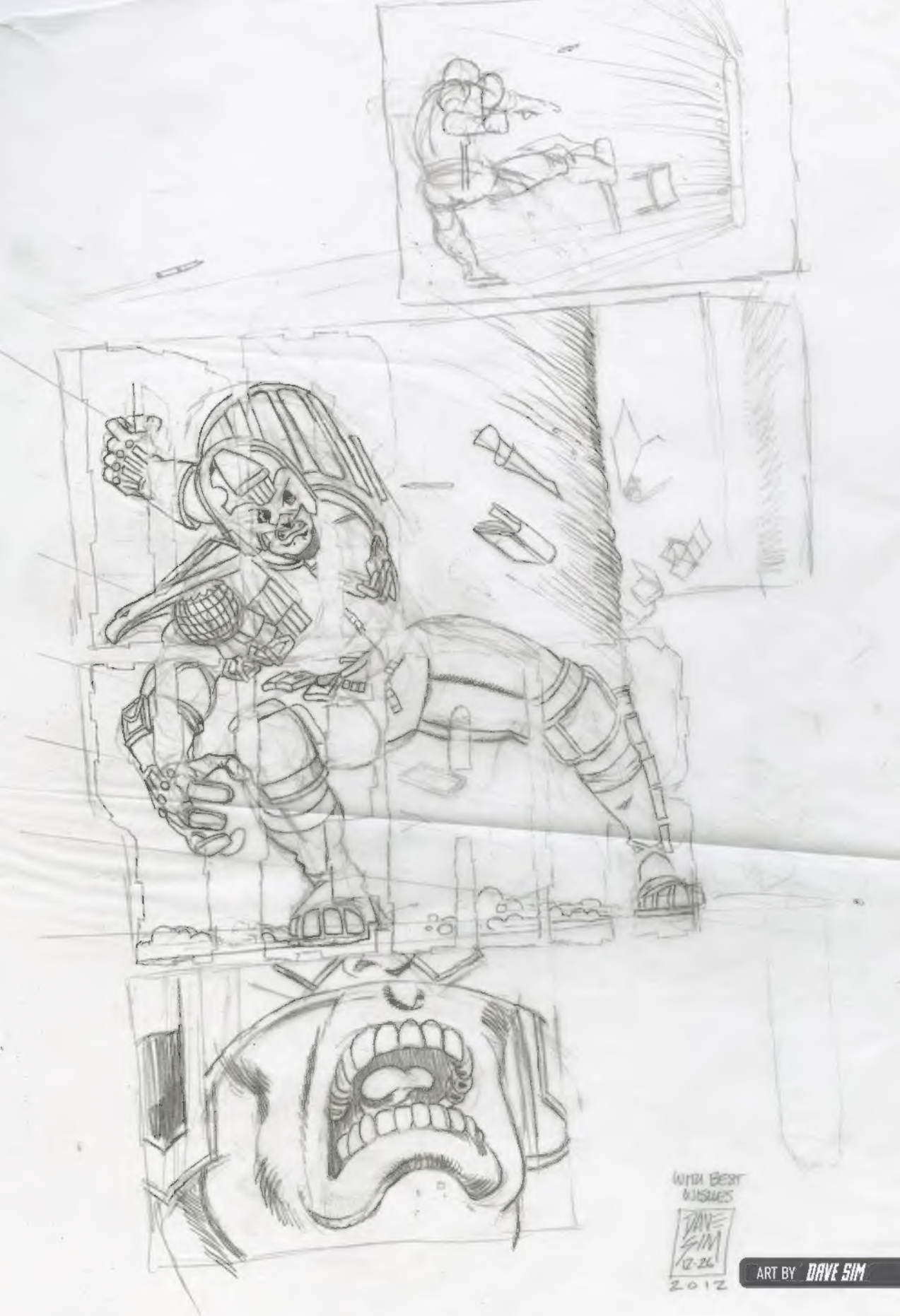

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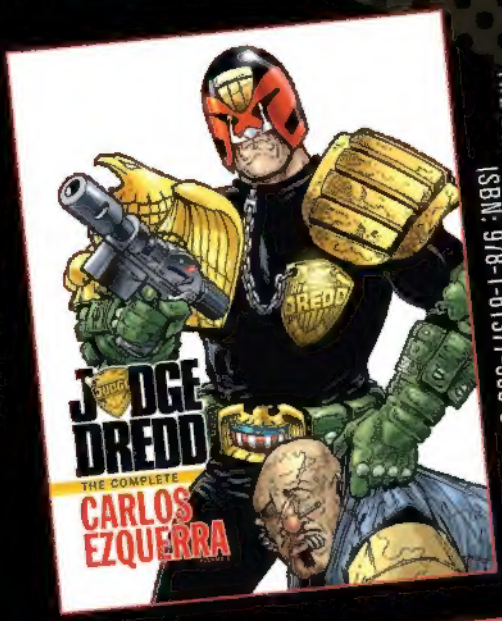

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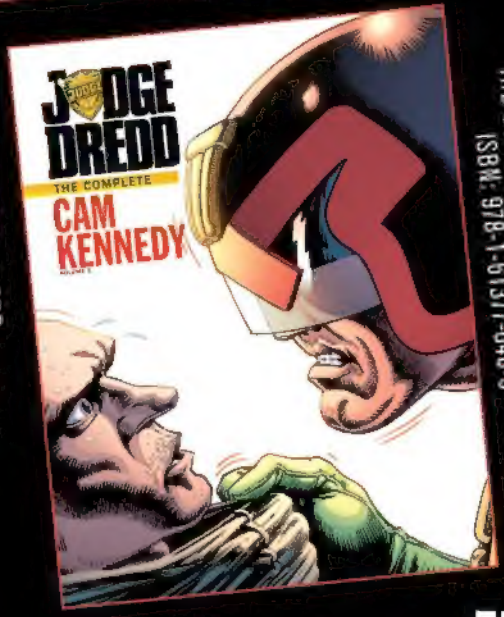

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IN AN ALL-NEW ADVENTURE FROM JOE DREDD'S EARLY DAYS AS A MEGA CITY-ONE JUDGE, WRITER MATT SMITH AND ARTIST SIMON COLEBY PRESENT "THE LONG HARD ROAD."

JUVES ARE DISPLAYING ABNORMAL PSYCHIC ABILITIES, AND DREDD IS FORCED TO LOOK TO THE PSI-DIVISION FOR SOME ANSWERS BEFORE AN ALL-OUT RIOT OVERTAKES THE CITY.

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